

JANUARY HILITES

- 17 members and one guest present.
- Nomination to ANA President for John Wilson moved and carried.
- Roger Levesque that he can no longer serve as Librarian. Kurt Frank volunteered the position.
- Moved and carried that the book MONEY be purchased for the Charlotte Avenue School Library.
- Nominations for club officers were opened and closed. The Secretary cast one vote for the slate. Congratulations to the new officers. See the last page for the list of officers.
- Show and Tell included two state quarters with clip errors; a Lexington-Concord Half in the original wooden box; an article on El Salvador accepting the US Dollar as their currency; a Mardi Gras Doubloon die from New Orleans, cut by H. Alan Sharpe who created the modern doubloon; a Nashua Centennial pinback; coins from an Outer Cape Cod camp meeting place, circa 1828; and a gambling token from the ship Club Royal. There were so many tokens on that ship that some had to be taken off lest the ship sank under the weight!
- Gary Galbo told of his adventures at the FUN.
- Dues were collected during the break
- Gary Galbo sold magnifying glasses at a discount to club members.
- There was a story about a geezer who recently turned in lots

of 1964 Kennedy Halves to the Bank of New Hampshire but wanted them back when he found out that they were worth more than face value.

-- Roger Levesque volunteered to bring donuts to the February meeting.

JANUARY QUIZ

Our February meeting is Lincoln's Birthday. How much do you know about him?

1. How many new US coins were introduced during Lincoln's administration?
2. In which statw was Lincoln born?
3. In which state is he buried?
4. Where did Lincoln tend to keep his private papers?

(Hollywood Squares question)
DECEMBER ANSWERS

1. Bland-Allison. 2. The Hunt Brothers (Nelson Bunker Hunt).
3. \$48.70. 4. Warren Buffett.

DUES REMINDER

Check your envelope label. If you have Thru: 00, you owe dues for this year. Please pay at the February meeting or send them to PO Box 3003; Nashua 03061-3003. Dues are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for juniors. Help us stay strong by continuing your membership in the NCC. It's the best deal going!

FROM VP RANDY BULLIS

With every new year comes an opportunity for new adventures and changes in our lives. One major change in mine was to accept a role as Vice President and Assistant Editor for the Nashua Coin Club. I thank you all for your support. It is truly an honor to serve in these positions and to help out in guiding the meetings.

Thanks to Gary Galbo, I became a member a couple years back and have enjoyed our meetings every month ever since. I am saddened as well, when I can't make a meeting due to my work schedule *because the congregation of members is most interesting to talk and listen to. I have learned a lot through our show-and-tell segments and have appreciated the open ears when I have information to share as well. To find a relationship like this is rare, especially in numismatics. I have not found too many members of my family that enjoy listening to the intricate differences of a very fine to an extremely fine coin. I guess if I had to sum up a statement as a Vice President, it would go: "Appreciate what we have with each other, and participate, you are among colleagues".

FORTY YEARS AS A NUMISMATIST:

PART I - THE FIRST TEN YEARS

by Ken Camilleis

One might say I began collecting coins the day I was born. A dear friend of my mother gave her a 1923 Peace dollar and said, "This is for Kenny". I suppose I actually began my avocation on February 2, 1961. I only remember the date because my Mom gave me a penny that day and said, "This is for the Ground Hog". She told me to look at the date on the coin. It went from there.

At the ripe old age of seven, Mom took me to "the li'l coin shop up the road" and bought me two Whitman folders for Lincoln Cents; 1909-1940 and 1941-Date. I told her I wanted her to buy me that 1909-S that was in the display case. Of course, she wouldn't spring for the \$25 or so it cost. Times were tough, in fact we squeezed our nickels so hard that the Indian was riding the buffalo. So pennies were all I could afford to collect.

For the next several months (and perhaps years!), Mom went to banks to bring back a few rolls of pennies for me to look through to plug holes in the albums. After a time, we found most of the "easy" dates either from the bank rolls or from everyday change. And Mom got one scarce date at the grocery store - a 1922-D that had such a weak "D" that I thought it was the rare and cherished "plain"!

Over the next five years or so my coin collecting was confined to commercial acquisitions. Although I was "forbidden" to collect anything but pennies, I liked to look at the dates and mint marks on all coins. Buffalo nickels were still in circulation, as were Mercury dimes, Standing Liberty quarters and Walking Liberty and Franklin halves. My uncle gave me some Indian Head cents and my grandmother gave me a "V" nickel or two, an 1872 Shield and an 1863 one-cent Civil War token.

My first major breakthrough as a numismatist came in the summer of 1966 when my Dad took me to S. L. Stone's coin shop in Boston and bought me several of the scarce date Lincolns I was missing. Then we went on a three-week trip to eight European countries, and of course I became exposed to the diversity of coinage from the different countries and found the coins quite intriguing. In 1966 Dad also took me to that "li'l coin shop" for the first time in five years, and for the next two years I was a frequent customer. By the time I was 13, I was totally addicted to coins. I began to go to many different coin outlets and collect many types of U.S. coins, and soon had an 1870 three-cent nickel, a 1917-D Type I Standing quarter in what I thought was Very Fine condition, some large cents, silver dollars, and assorted type coins. Dad took me to a coin shop which displayed a Capped Bust half that had been found by the dealer (perhaps with a metal detector), and I pleaded with him to buy it for me.

The year 1968 was so memorable. It started off with a big bang: at that "li'l shop up the road", I was accused of stealing an album of Washington quarters. What had happened was, a few months earlier, I had been fitted to a brace because of a spinal curvature, and it embarrassed me no end. I tried to hide it as best I could, but it stuck up out of my back whenever I sat down or leaned forward. I hated it so much I refused to wear it at times, despite the doctor's recommendation. Late in 1967 I went to the coin shop and a man that I didn't recognize asked me what I had in my back. The small store was crowded and I pretended not to notice him. He did not pursue the matter. However, on this fateful January day, the proprietor told me that that man I'd ignored was a plain-clothes policeman and he was suspicious of me. Mom and Dad were both in the shop, and it just so happened that I wasn't wearing my brace! Mom rushed back home to retrieve the brace and showed it to the coin dealer. Thirty-three years later, I still believe he thought I took his quarters!

In April of 1968 I made what I felt was my first "manly" purchase - a 1908 Indian Head quarter eagle in VF from Stone's - my first gold coin! I paid \$30 for it out of money I'd earned working in Mom's office. I was in my glory, having joined "the Gold Club". Around this same time I bought a relatively rare 1914-D cent that had been "marked down" because it had obtrusive rim nicks, as well as scarce early "S" cents, a 1924-D and a few others. By late spring I was missing only the 1909-S, the S-VDB, the 1922 "plain" and the 1931-S. I also bought an 1852 three-cent silver, an 1853 half dime, Seated dimes from 1841 and 1853, an 1802 large cent and many other 19th-century coins that spring. At age 14, I felt I had a "respectable" coin collection. (The conditions of these coins were pitiful!)

In 1968, silver coins were rapidly disappearing from circulation. So in May I began to save them. Halves (except the "40-percenters") were in essence gone, so it was dimes and quarters I was after. I began to record how many silver dimes and quarters of different dates/mints I'd get in change. In 1969 there was much less silver around, and in 1970 and '71 less still, to the point where one was lucky to pick out one or two silvers from a bank roll of 50 dimes or 40 quarters. In 1969 I completed an Uncirculated set of Roosevelt dimes from 1946 to date. During 1970-71 I concentrated on beefing up my Standing quarter collection, and bought some impressive pieces such as a Gem BU 1924-D and a VF 1921, and many other pre-1925 specimens which were virtually impossible to get in change with visible dates. I also got my first 18th-century coin, a 1798 large cent in Fine condition.

In the early summer of 1971, my maternal grandmother came upon a hoard of coins acquired through her latest remarriage. There were numerous large cents, silver dollars and assorted foreign coins including a 1776 Spanish 2-reale piece. Grandma gave them all to me. And soon I purchased from J. J. Teaparty a 1931-S cent in red-brown Unc. Now I was missing only the two 1909-S dates and the 1922 plain. But on August 10 of that year, I'd have an experience which would change forever how I'd go about randomly acquiring good coins. Stay tuned

COIN OF THE MONTH ...

... was "Any Old Thing." Items shown were an 1883 no-cents nickel which was bought from dealer Bob Sherwood several years ago; a 1764 Pillar Real (1/8th of a dollar or one Bit) found in Newton, MA near a one-room schoolhouse. This coin was legal tender in this country until 1857. Another item was an elongated cent from USS ALABAMA, a battleship parked in Mobile Bay along with all sorts of other nifty military hardware. A British silver 3 pence coin was made into a button. Two nickels from 1947 and 1939 were included. Charlie Dube won the whole pot. Next month: Oldest readable date Lincoln Cent.

SHOW CALENDAR

2-4 Feb - Auburn, MA
18 FEB - 3rd SUNDAY,
HOLIDAY INN
 22-25 Feb - Long Beach, CA
8-10 Mar - ANA SLC, UT
11 Mar - Willamantic, CT
 16-18 Mar - Baltimore, MD
18 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY,
HOLIDAY INN
 18 Mar - Portland, ME
23-25 MAR - NENA/BAY
STATE BOSTON
 30 Mar-1 Apr - Springfield, MA

2001 OFFICERS

President - Bruce Heimbach

VP - Gary Galbo

VP - Alan Brouillard

VP - Randy Bullis

Secretary - Robert "Bart" Bartanowicz

Treasurer - Bob Fritsch

Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Kurt Frank

Editor - Bob Fritsch/Randy Bullis

This Newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright © 2001 by the Nashua Coin Club unless otherwise noted. Questions, comments, and articles may be sent to bobfritsch@earthlink.net or Randanator@aol.com on email or to PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003. Deadline is the Friday following the monthly meeting.

Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

**NEXT MEETING 12 FEBRUARY
AT THE LIBRARY**

NASHUA NUMISMATIST

February 2001
Volume 5 Number 2
Whole Number 49

Minutes of the NCC 2/12/01

Meeting was convened and called to order by President Bruce Heimbach at 7:05 PM. Thirteen members were in attendance.

Outgoing President Bartanowicz presented the symbolic NCC Gavel and Block to incoming President Bruce Heimbach.

Secretary Bartanowicz reminded members to submit their dues for 2001. (Note Tim Samson paid dues by check)

January Minutes. The reading of the January club minutes were waived and members accepted the minutes as published in the February NCC Numismatist.

Review of correspondence. Club agreed not to sponsor Mr. Gary Lewis in his quest for an ANA office. Club agreed to mail Mr. R. Scott Ray of South Easton, MA an application for membership per his request.

Incoming correspondence. Two things were passed out for distribution. One was the club's copy of the ANA Numismatist. Bart also passed out his most recent column for Coins Magazine, which was centered on a club discussion of the coin of the month.

Annual Banquet. President Heimbach asked Alan Brouillard to see about what possible venues we might use for the June banquet. Alan accepted the task and also solicited members for any ideas. Discussion also took place over who a guest speaker might be. Club members were asked to bring ideas to the March meeting.

Annual Club Awards. President Heimbach asked members to be thinking about the awards program and went over the categories. Everyone was reminded that the April meeting would be the first call for nominations.

Recent Activities. Club members discussed Gary Galbo's recent auction. Several questions were brought up as to auction terms and procedures. This included a discussion of what the "reserve" meant as well as bidding procedures including the strategy behind holding one's bid number up continuously to win the lot.

Cleaned coins. A discussion took place regarding what this actually meant. The nuances of dipping and cleaning using substances such as acetone were discussed. The bottom line was that you need to know what you're doing. Alan Brouillard offered a story or two about cleaning coins.

Raffle. Jacinta Walant won the raffle prize of \$3.25. Tim Walant entered his mother's name. Glen Walant assured us that Timothy would let his mother know of her good fortune!

Young Numismatist's Program. David Heimbach and Tim Walant both drew coins from the pouch. Bart agreed to act as the "lifeline" and Gary Galbo (who was not present at the time) was also *volunteered* to help our Young Numismatists.

Mint Programs. A discussion took place about the Mint's selling practices including how difficult it was to purchase a bag of the new state quarters off of the Internet. Members who attempted an Internet purchase from the mint indicated that they no sooner got their bids in after "opening time" that the Mint responded on-line that all bags were sold! Discussion migrated to member's opinions of what mint state rolls of the new quarters would be worth in the future. The opinion seemed to be that the prices would be nominal and that the present values of \$40-60 for some rolls would not hold into the future let alone go higher. Meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Robert S. Bartanowicz
Secretary, NCC

Coin of the Month

This was the oldest Lincoln Cent with a readable date. Charlie Dube won the raffle that consisted of 6 "wheaties."

March Coin Of The Month

Next month's coin of the month will be any coin with 2001 on it excluding state quarters.

TWO IMPORTANT COIN SHOWS IN MARCH

The annual Willimantic, CT coin show is slated for 11 March. Is anyone interested in going? If there is enough interest, we will get a vanload going down (weather permitting). Please call Bob Fritsch at 533-8662 to make arrangements.

NENA will hold its annual show in conjunction with the Bay State show 23-24 March. All the typical NENA stuff will be there -- Exhibits, Educational Presentations and the Whatzit Table. Mark your calendars to attend this always enjoyable event.

DO YOU PURCHASE U.S. MINT SETS?

By Randy Bullis

So you only collect coins by series do you? I have discovered that some series, it is virtually impossible to collect them without having to purchase a United States Mint Set. These are the sets sealed in plastic film that contain one of each of the coins minted that year. Present day mint sets cost \$14.95 and contain the five different state quarters, a Sacagawea dollar, a Kennedy half dollar, a Roosevelt dime, a Jefferson nickel, and a Lincoln cent. The best thing is there is not only 10 coins, but 20 because there is one coin of each for the Philadelphia mint and one of each for the Denver mint. This has rarely changed much except for the years when the San Francisco mint produced coins and then those were included as well. These coins are all uncirculated but may have a number of contact marks since they are not specially minted coins but pulled from the bins to create the sets.

Now, it may not be surprising that the mint does some funny things to help boost sales of coin sets these days, but historically speaking, the only time a coin was available strictly in a mint set was because there was not enough demand from the banks for them. These are the mint sets we all need to be able to finish our series collections. They are as follows. 1970 mint set was the only place to get the 1970-D Kennedy half dollar. 1973 mint set, contained the 1973 and 1973-D Eisenhower dollars. The 1981 set held the 1981 P, D, and S Anthony dollars. In 1987, the only 1987 and 1987-D Kennedy half dollars available came from mint sets.

Recently, some sets contain other coins that are controversially necessary to complete collections. One of these is the 1996-W Roosevelt dime. Only available in the mint set. Was it only added to make better sales? After all, W minted business strike coins have never been minted since. We could go on and on about the latest special coins provided by the Mint that are open to discussion. How about those 1995 and 1997 matte proof Jefferson nickels as well, or the matte proof / burnished Sacagawea dollar coin only available from the Coin and Currency sets?

I end with a question I hope our more experienced members could help with. Why did the mint sets of the 1950's contain 2 of each mint for each coin minted that year? Was one just for our series collection and the other to remain in the package?

FEBRUARY QUIZ

Here are some questions about 2001.

1. What are the five State Quarters for 2001?
2. What are the two U.S. Commemorative Coin programs for 2001?
3. New officials at the Treasury will change the series on our paper money. Will the new series be 1999A or 2001?
4. Preliminary reports indicate that 2001 cents may have the same varieties as occurred in 1960, 1970, and 1982. What are these varieties?

JANUARY ANSWERS

1. Only 1, Two-Cent piece (Nickel three-centers and Nickel 5-centers were issued after Lincoln's assassination).
2. Kentucky.
3. Illinois.
4. In his stovepipe hat.

Show Calendar

8-10 Mar - ANA SLC, UT
11 Mar - Willamantic, CT
16-18 Mar - Baltimore, MD
18 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
18 Mar - Portland, ME
23-25 MAR - NENA/BAY STATE BOSTON
30 Mar-1 Apr - Springfield, MA
15 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
20-22 Apr - Marlborough, MA
22 Apr - W. Springfield, MA
27-29 Apr - Chicago Int'l Coin Fair, IL

Good Deal!

Robert Landry told of a good deal. He paid his father \$20 for 850 Venezuelan Bolivars from the island of Margarita. Bob attempted to convert it and found that it was worth less than \$20 and would cost him an additional \$5.95 to convert it. He decided to keep the Bolivars and passed them around for members to look at.

FORTY YEARS AS A NUMISMATIST
THE SECOND TEN YEARS
by Ken Camilleis

So as I was sunning myself at Wollaston Beach on that sultry day in the summer of '71 I saw a man sweeping over the sand with a metal detector and putting things into his pockets. I'd never before seen a metal detector in operation close-up, and the man gave me a demo of it. He showed me some jewelry items and several obsolete coins he'd found that day. I was very excited as I watched him dig silver coins out of the sand. And the rest, they say, is history...the following year as a high school graduation present, my parents bought me a Heathkit metal detector.

During the summer of 1972 I went to several beaches to try to find precious jewelry and old coins. I found a 14K gold wedding band at Carson Beach and a few silver coins. In November I would work a playground on my commute from college and found a 1749 King George II British farthing, a 1911-D Barber dime and many other old coins and relics. During a thaw in January of 1973, I found at this same park a 1918 Canadian dime with mint-state details.

But soon my detector stopped working well, and for the next three years I had more important things on my mind anyway. I needed to do a different kind of treasure hunting. (It would come to pass that in 1977 I'd discover the find of a lifetime, and 23 years later she's still the greatest.) Metal detecting was getting boring, as the number of silver coins I found was dropping precipitously. In what little spare time I had as a college student, it was back to the banks to pick out perhaps one silver dime in every 10 rolls. Boo hiss!

On the bright side, while I was in college, especially in my freshman year, I'd assembled sets of all U.S. coin types that began in the 20th century, and my Lincoln set was missing only the S-VDB and the '22 plain, which were three-figure coins even in "Good". I had bought from Boston coin shops a lot of uncirculated coins of the 'Teens and 'Twenties from different denominations, having earned some money working in my mother's office.

On March 24, 1976, my interest in metal detecting was rekindled after I'd spend over \$250 for a really good detector. And soon I'd be finding hundreds, then *thousands* of obsolete coins, mostly at a large playground in Newton Centre, where I used to play as a child. I popped an 1854 Seated Liberty quarter (well-worn), a 1729-54 George II halfpenny, many Indian Head cents and Barber coins, and gold and silver rings.

I met Marita at a faculty gathering at Boston College on November 17, 1977. Soon we started dating – and I got her into metal detecting, too. On her birthday the next March she detected my first 1938-S dime. A few weeks before we got married I found an old gold ladies' ring with a letter "M" engraved in script – how fitting for the occasion! We got married on the commemorative date of November 17, 1979. And at this time the coin market was very hot – and getting hotter still.....

..... so hot that a friend in the family had gotten into the market as an investor. A bigtime investor. He advised me to sell most of my coins as they had appreciated in value tremendously. Which I did. But he also suggested that I buy "Superb Gem" business-strike and proof type coins. Which I did ... only to find out a year or two later that they were not-so-Gem. I'd lose 80% of my "investment". This was when gold went up to \$800+ and silver to \$50, and this was a few years before the age of "slabs".

I didn't know it at the time, but on August 10, 1980 I found the rarest coin I'd probably ever find in my lifetime. It was an 1820 North West Company fur trader's token. According to Walter Breen (reference numbers B-1083 & B-1084) only about 5,000 of these were made, and they are all pierced as was this one. This type of coin circulated in the Pacific Northwest, mainly Oregon, in exchange for a beaver pelt, but how one of them made its way to the remote location of upper Cape Cod is anybody's guess. Not recognizing the design on the badly corroded copper coin with the hole in it, I wasn't really excited about it even though it bore an 1820 date. I tossed it into a box with other personal effects and forgot about it except as an entry in a data file on my PC.

Late in 1981 Marita and I moved to Westboro. During the move a lot of stuff got lost or misplaced. I believe my 1820 "beaver token" was among the items that disappeared into oblivion.

Stay tuned for 1982 through 1991

2001 OFFICERS

President - Bruce Heimbach
VP - Gary Galbo
VP - Alan Brouillard
VP - Randy Bullis
Secretary - Robert "Bart" Bartanowicz
Treasurer - Bob Fritsch
Director - Don Pickering
Librarian - Kurt Frank
Editor - Bob Fritsch/Randy Bullis

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**NEXT MEETING 12 MARCH AT
THE LIBRARY**



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

March 2001
Volume 5 Number 3
Whole Number 50

Minutes of the NCC 3/12/01

Meeting was convened and called to order by President Bruce Heimbach at 7:05 P.M. Twelve members were in attendance.

The minutes of the February meeting were read by Randy Bullis. It was suggested that the club purchase a number of coin boards and be stamped with a rubber stamp (if we have one) with the notice "courtesy of Nashua Coin Club" and then left at libraries and coin shops.

Our president, Bruce Heimbach, made a fine oration of his presidential message that didn't make the newsletter.

Roger has noted that the new librarian had yet to contact him to pick up the club's material. Randy Bullis agreed pick it up and hold on to it until the librarian has time to receive it. Having reviewed the boxes, I find some very interesting books that I have already used for reference. Verdict: We have a nice library.

The quiz was successful and fun. A discussion ensued about paper currency and how when one signature changes, it has a series change of a letter and when two signatures change, a whole new date series is made. Alan said he will investigate further, though.

Ken Camilleis celebrated his 40th year of coin collecting by giving us a brilliant and entertaining speech of the "good ole days" when we did lots of dumb things on our way up the coin collecting ladder. This led to a discussion of dumb things we have done such as erasing the toning off a

cent, using copper pan cleaner of cents, and using acetone on any and all coins.

Ken Young showed a "coin silver" spoon made for a family in NH by Moulton. He also showed us a book made on collecting spoons.

The raffle of \$2.75 was won by Don Pickering.

Ken Young displayed a sheet of photos of commemorative medals from the middle ages. All members joined in to interpret the mottoes and designs on them.

Roger Levesque showed the club a medal celebrating the arrival of the London Bridge in 1971 to the United States.

David Heimbach gave us an informative report on a Young Numismatist bag of coins. His bag contained English 10 pence, 2 new pence, and a half penny.

The Euro coins will be faded in beginning 1/1/2002 and a discussion followed.

A show and tell of a Florida dealer's self-made slabbing company, Accugrade now offers your own slabbing company for a mere investment of \$50,000. 20 hours of intense training comes with this from the dealer and you are then a professional grader/slabber.

A survey was taken about the Sacajawea dollar and 80% said keep it, 18% said keep both paper money and the coin. Of course, the survey was taken by Littleton Coin Company on their web page so the club thinks it may be a bit bias.

Canadian Coin News headline was brought to our attention. A mint employee was charged with making counterfeit error coins such as mules. We pondered how these new error coins sound familiar with the U.S. equivalents.

Due to all the interesting material presented at the meeting, the meeting ran a bit late and adjourned at 9:07.

Congratulations!

The Nashua Coin Club celebrates it's 50th issue and we present our appreciation to our executive editor, Bob Fritsch for his sincere devotion to the club newsletter and getting us where we are today. Thank you!

From the President Bruce Heimbach

I really had a great time at our last meeting. Show and tell was particularly interesting. With the end of March here, I hope this newsletter finds everyone outdoors once again enjoying "Fun in the Sun" activities. As for me, I will not be able to attend the April meeting, because I will be in Las Vegas. I am planning on visiting a few Wells Fargo Banks to see if they have any new rolls of Denver minted anything. I also want to remind everyone that in April we will be taking nominations for the awards program at our June banquet. The voting on the nominees will take place, and be finalized, at our May meeting. Hope to see all of you at our May meeting with some of my Vegas treasures.

Coin of the Month

This was the oldest Lincoln Cent with a readable date.

Charlie Dube won the raffle that consisted of 6

April Coin of the Month

Next month's Coin of the Month will be any worn Mercury dime.

Awards Banquet

The June 11th awards banquet has been decided to be held at Newicks restaurant. Last year there was 31 members in attendance. Remember, members are free and guest must pay a small additional fee. We hope that most meals stay under the \$15 range so as not to hit the treasury too hard.

SHOW CALENDAR

1 Apr - Orono, ME

13-14 Apr - Mansfield, MA

15 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

20-22 Apr - Marlborough, MA

22 Apr - W. Springfield, MA

22 Apr - Chelmsford, MA

22 Apr - Burlington, VT

27-29 Apr - Chicago Int'l Coin Fair, IL

6 May - Auburn, MA

20 MAY - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

31 May-3 Jun - Long Beach, CA

CLUB DUES ARE OVERDUE

PLEASE NOTE YOUR ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE. IF IT STATES MEMBER # THRU 01, THEN YOU'RE PAID UP. IF NOT, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR \$6 DUES FOR 2001 TO THE MEETING OR MAIL TO THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE. ALL MEMBERS THANK YOU.

MARCH QUIZ

The COTM is the Winged Liberty (Mercury) Dime but the quiz is about one of its design elements.

1. What is the name of the central device on the reverse and what is its significance?
2. What are the components of this device?
3. During World War II, one of our enemies used this same device on their coins. What country?
4. The ruling party of that country took its name from the device. What is its name?

FEBRUARY ANSWERS

1. New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island (completing the original 13 states), Vermont, Kentucky.
2. Capitol Visitors Center (\$5, \$1, Half Dollar) and the Buffalo Silver Dollar.
3. 2001 because both signatures change.
4. Large Date and Small Date.

In addition to the report David gave us on pre-decimal coinage of England, I have provided a chart below of the coin system used before 1968. Easy, isn't it?

1 Farthing

½ Penny

1 Penny

2 Pence

3 Pence

Groat = 4 pence

6 Pence

Shilling = 12 pence

Florin = 2 shillings

Half Crown = 2 ½ shillings

Crown = 5 shillings

Pound = 20 shillings

Gold Sovereign = 20 shillings

Gold Guineas = 21 shillings

**Nashua Coin Club
Awards Program
Nomination Form**

Instructions: Listed is each NCC award category. Nominate only one person for each category. A description of the awards and the criteria has been published in previous editions of the "NCC Numismatist" as well as in a club brochure. If you do not have either of the above, brochures will be available at the May meeting. The basic criteria are that nominees must have attended at least six meetings in the year 2000. A list of eligible members will be provided at the May meeting. Bring this ballot with you to the May meeting. We will collect all ballots at the 8:00 PM break.

NCC Gold Medal: _____

Numismatic Achievement Award: _____

Literary Award: _____

Young Numismatist Award: _____

Signature or NCC Membership Number:

Date:

Ken Young was a farmer and part time junk collector / general horse trader type. His barn yard generally filled with old cars, tired iron farm machinery, and old lumber piles. Coins collected were usually Canadian, also liked old horse drawn hayrakes. His coins were always over graded. Was the ban of all foreign dealers at the spring shows as his junk was rejected and his offers to buy the dealers coins only about half of what the dealers thought their stuff was worth. Hid most of his coins in old auto bodies around the barn to keep his wife from finding the rolls and spending them.

Ken Camilleis has been a coin collector for 40 years, and has been a member of the Nashua Coin Club since 1989. Ken entered numismatics the usual way in the early 1960s by trying to pick Lincoln cents of as many different date/mint combinations as he could find and plug them into Whitman folders. At the age of 12, he began buying from coin shops many of the scarce cents he was unable to find in change. In 1972 Ken began using a metal detector to find obsolete coins. During his high school and college years, Ken bought more expensive (\$50-\$100 range) coins. In 1980, during the first great "coin boom", he sold most of these coins and consolidated his collection into a few Gem BU and Proof type coins, such as Seated Liberty and Barber quarters and St. Gaudens \$20s. In 1991 Ken got bitten by a different kind of bug – he became intensely interested in antebellum American history, especially of the second quarter of the 19th century. And in due time Ken shifted his numismatic interests to this period. Presently he collects and studies almost *exclusively* U.S. coins of the 1820-1860 period of all denominations from half cents to \$20 gold, and with his metal detector seeks to find places where people congregated during this time so as to find Seated Liberty, Capped Bust, Spanish silver and other period coins

Bob Fritsch started collecting pocket change from the countires he visited during his Naval service over 30 years ago. He joined the Nashua Coin Club in 1987, just before his retirement from the Navy in 1988. He then served as Vice President and a 3-year term as President. He simultaneously served as President of the New England Numismatic Association (NENA) and the New Hampshire Numismatic Association (NHNA) during that tenure, one of the few people in the country that was President of a regional, state, and local club at the same time. After turning over the gavel, he became Secretary-Treasurer and created the *Nashua Numismatist*, the club's newsletter, where he served as editor for the first four years of its existence. He has brought many innovations to our club that became part of our monthly programs including Coin of the Month and Show and Tell and has dedicated many hours per month to keeping the clubs books and editing the newsletter.

Bob is a member of over 30 coin clubs nationwide, including the ANA where he is an active participant at the annual conventions as exhibitor, certified exhibit judge, speaker, and volunteer worker at club booths. He is a generalist with wide-ranging numismatic interests, and specializes in New Hampshire exonomia. He is on the Boards of the Token and Medal Society (TAMS) and NENA, and is running for office in The Elongated Collectors (TEC) and the International Order of Wooden Money Collectors (IWOMC). He writes articles for various numismatic journals, and is the monthly Quizmaster for our newsletter. When on travel, he attends local coin club meetings and brings back his experiences and the good ideas he has seen to try at our club; if it works we keep it and if it doesn't there are always more ideas out there. One of Bob's greatest honors in recent years was being chosen to sit on the Governor's committee that chose the design for the 2000 New Hampshire 50 States Quarter. He brought his numismatic perspective to the committee and wrote the web site about the coin for the state.

Andrew Horton came to the club with coins to show, stories to tell, and information to share. Right after he came in, he wrote articles for the newsletter. He even wrote "numi-novelites" (coin based fiction with action and adventure at the flip of a coin). He then joined the 40th Anniversary Team and helped inspire, draft, and capture the Governor's Proclamation for our coin club. Some newer members may not have seen Andrew recently for he has joined with the Peace Corps and is out there in the world helping others.

Gary Galbo was president of the club for 2 years and VP about 6 years or so. He is Bourse Chairman and Show Manager since 1989. He has been inspiration for young and old numismatists alike. He brings with him strong vounteerism to the club as well as a fine coin shop where all can meet, research our club's library and talk numismatics in general.

FORTY YEARS AS A NUMISMATIST

PART III - THE THIRD TEN YEARS

By Ken Camilleis

Late in 1981 I received the good word that I (along with a third of the work force) was being laid off. As we'd just taken out a mortgage on our first home, and I'd spent so much money on coins, my wife and I were in dire straits. The coins had gone down so much in value from early 1980 that there was now no hope of selling them so as to make sufficient inroads into our mounting debt.

The winter of 1982, one of the coldest in recent Eastern Mass. history, was bitter in more ways than one. Our "new" home was far from new. It was a charming late-generation Victorian (built in 1898), and of course it was heated by oil. Lots and *lots* of it. One day in January the temperature dipped below zero. My wife and I were inside the house late one night and we heard very loud rattling and clanking sounds. And then the whole house started to shake! And then it was *freezing* cold. What had happened was the oil tank had run dry! It cost us a pretty penny to have it reprimed and filled, and this had to be done at least three times within a month.

Unemployed and destitute, my mother offered for me to work in the medical billing business that she started years earlier. Luckily, my wife was still working full-time and supporting me, including under her company's health plan. While I needed full-time "permanent" employment in my field, which at that time was as a software test engineer for military defense equipment programs, the job at Mom's place helped me keep my head above water until October (yes, 10 months later!) I got and accepted an offer from Sanders. (And I've been a Nashuan ever since!)

All the while, even unemployed, I still had "coin fever". Especially since in early 1982 "Superb Gem" proof Seated quarters could have been bought for one third of the 1980 peak prices. At a Bay State show in February, I saw a beautiful 1865 (that's a No Motto) Gem Proof quarter, which I simply couldn't afford even though it was such a great buy. At this same show was an absolutely stunning 1832 Capped Bust half that was also supremely cheap but beyond my means. But on November 20, one month after hiring on at Sanders, I bought a Gem Proof 1904 Barber quarter real cheap. I was "back in the fold". That was pretty much it for quite a while.

During 1983-85 my interest in coin buying began to dissipate. Feeling there was so much controversy over grading, I got sick and tired of having my Gem coins referred to as "nice AUs". During this time I focused heavily on studying uncirculated copper coins and coming up with my own "color-coding" scheme for identifying color grades. And in 1986, along came slabbing ... and Christie, the new addition to our family. She was, and is, one of our most precious treasures. And metal detecting finds were distant seconds to Christie in their "treasure" value, although abundant in obsolete coins, including a few from the 18th century.

The late eighties came and went as far as coin purchases were concerned, and Tracy came of 1988 vintage. I escaped the big "Wall Street slab boom" of 1989 unscathed, having learned my lesson in 1980. The biggest mistake I made in 1989 was selling an 1893-S Liberty \$5 which had been housed in an MS-63 slab - this coin today would be at least two grades - and perhaps an order of magnitude in value - over what I sold it for. In the summer of '89 I left my last government job and, as my mother's business was now booming, went to work for it full-time. (And I've been there ever since.) At this time I stepped up my work on color-grading of copper coins.

At the beginning of 1990, Christie was almost four and Tracy was sixteen months old. I began to write a book (a project which ultimately fizzled out) about copper color grading, and sent my work to the ANA. They would not publish it, but in early 1991 they signed to accept one of my articles for publication in *The Numismatist*, which would appear nearly a year later. Some interesting metal-detected finds at this time included an 1808 Spanish 2-reale coin and a Japanese (1837-54) Ichibu Gin rectangular silver coin. And I found a nice 1844 half dime at the Cape on September 21.

The date September 25, 1991 marks a significant turning point in my numismatic life. It was a very rainy day on the Cape (in the aftermath of August's Hurricane Bob) and I went to Cape Cod Community College to do some historical research. It went from there, and that 1844 half dime played an instrumental role....

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NEXT MEETING 9 APRIL AT THE LIBRARY

INFORMATION REQUESTED PLEASE

Our club's first award banquet is on it's way and I would like everyone to know what each club member has accomplished or has done for the good of the club. To do this, I would like to print in the next newsletter a little bit about each member. This will make the newsletter a candidate's podium per se. I need your help, though. Please write a paragraph or so about yourself in a third person perspective informing us about your collecting accomplishments and what you may have done to help the club in the past. This will not only be fun, but we will all get to know more about each other this way. Bring this write up to the meeting or mail to me before April 20th. Thank you. Randy Bullis, 73 Mansion Road, Dunbarton, NH 03046



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

April 2001
Volume 5 Number 4
Whole Number 51

Minutes of the NCC Meeting of April 9, 2001

Respectfully submitted by Ken
Camilleis

The "Awards Program" voting was held off for a month. The nomination forms were distributed to NCC members. These ballots must be filled out and returned by or at the May 14 NCC meeting. Awards will be distributed at the June banquet.

Gary Galbo discussed what NCC members can do and have done to help the club, especially with respect to recognition for the Awards Program. He suggested that the "Gold Medal Award" go to that person who has done the most or best service to the Club.

Gary also spoke about his recent activities, which included:

Small Cents auction March 31

Central States show

Baltimore ("a great show!")

Indianapolis (Gary passed out woodens & elongated cents)

Bay State show March 23-25

John Statkum passed out literature from Heritage Numismatic Auctions/ Heritage Rare Coin Galleries regarding coin collection estate planning. John also passed around a quarter with a strange fish-shaped impression on the obverse, and we were trying to figure out if this is a mint error.

Ken Camilleis passed around a

mint-state zinc penny with a curious ring of unplated zinc around the reverse rim – was this also a mint error? Ken also passed around some business cards from his "Antebellum America" research project.

Tim Walant spoke about his "YN Research Program". Tim discussed Spanish currency and passed around a 1953-dated *100 peseta* bill (value about 75 cents U.S.) and a 1957 Spanish coin.

Nine-year-old **Tim Cerato** told a story of how he got two silver dollars for his birthday. They are dated 1878 (the first year of the Morgan type) and 1923-D (Peace type).

Ken Young passed out D-mint Sacagawea dollars at face value for anyone who attended the meeting.

Roger Levesque also won the attendance raffle – and donated it back to the Club! **Melissa Walant** drew the winning ticket, so \$3 went to the Club and 50 cents to Melissa.

The Minutes of the March meeting were accepted as read.

The April meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

REMINDER! 2001 dues are DUE!

The "Coin of the Month" was the Mercury dime. Several Mercuries of widely varying grade were submitted. An interesting discussion ensued about the designs on the Mercury dime, such as the meaning of the fasces, ax, sticks and olive branch and the fact that the device on the obverse was not intended as a representation of the Roman god Mercury but rather a winged angel of liberty. Dave Heimbach won the raffle of 11 Mercuries. Roger Levesque passed around a cardboard exhibit containing 5 Mercury dimes entitled "The Worst Mercuries of the West". Probably dating from 1916-20, these were true "thin dimes"!

SHOW CALENDAR

6 May - Auburn, MA

6 May - Brunswick, ME

20 MAY - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY
INN

31 May-3 Jun - Long Beach, CA

15-17 June - Baltimore, MD

17 JUN - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY
INN

15 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY
INN

8-12 AUG - ANA ATLANTA

19 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY
INN

APRIL QUIZ

Here are some questions about Nashua Coin Club members.

1. Who is the only Charter member still active?
2. Who are the Life Members of the club who are still active?
3. Who are the four presidents preceding the current incumbent? (Hint: They are all still active.)
4. Who are the incumbent club officers?

MARCH ANSWERS

1. It is a Fasces (fash-us), the ancient Roman symbol of authority. 2. It is a bundle of rods and an axe tied together with ribbons. 3. Italy. 4. The Facist Party, led by Benito Mussolini.

Musings From the Club Secretary

R. S. "Bart" Bartanowicz

Did you ever wonder why we have so much *stuff* or put another way, have we all signed on to the cult of consumerism? I am on a short break in my *inner sanctum* where I have been doing a Spring-cleaning. The amount of stuff that I am looking at is "speaking to me" and saying "Why did you ever buy me?"

For instance, I have enough batteries to light up most of Nashua neighborhood. And scotch tape—, as you well know you can never have enough tape! The Canadian humorist Red Green would be proud of the duct tape that I have also amassed.

Of the things that I am looking at, it is my books that I feel a real connection with. My disposing of a book or magazine on coins is something that I have considerable angst about. The best thing for these items is to pass them to my fellow collectors. As we know we can do this at the club auction or simply pass them out as we come in. Bob Fritsch has always been generous in this regard. We all need to do this, and if we have some real treasures there is our club librarian who will gratefully accept acquisitions.

Finally since I am on the subject of books, the heart of the hobby is sustained by good books. We certainly have more information available on U.S. coins than ever before. If you read some early articles, correspondence and books over the past two centuries you will be astonished to see how little information there was and how *bad* some of it was. A good book for you specialty is indeed a wise investment. Our fellow club member Mr. Galbo can certainly offer some sage advice on what the standards are.

Happy Reading.....Bart

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AWARD REVIEWS

NCC GOLD MEDAL AWARD

This is the NCC's Highest and most prestigious award. This award symbolizes our recognition of a unique individual who represents the best in all of us. This award is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly to the club and the numismatic hobby.

NCC NUMISMATIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is second only to the NCC Gold Medal and the nominees should have distinguished themselves in either numismatic research, scholarly pursuits, and/or volunteerism.

LITERARY AWARD

This award can be based on a single work or a collection of works that we have read and remembered.

YOUNG NUMISMATIST AWARD

This award is for the YN who has been the most actively engaged in club functions and numismatic topics.

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find your nomination form. Very important to bring this to the meeting with you. Nominations will be held at the very beginning of the meeting and will be discussed.

Near the end of the meeting, voting ballots will be handed out and filled in. These will be given to the club secretary to be counted before the June Award's Banquet. At the banquet, we will all find out the winners.

The toughest part of the elections will be with each member testing their memory to remember all the positive qualities each other member has given the club and the numismatic hobby. To assist you in your recall, I have enclosed a sheet with a short profile on a few of our members. This is NOT to state that these are the only members available for nominations. This is only an abbreviated list of some members I can relate some info about.

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**NEXT MEETING 14 MAY AT THE
LIBRARY**



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

May 2001
Volume 5 Number 5
Whole Number 52

NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting
14 May 2001

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by President Bruce Heimbach with 19 members and one guest present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Correspondence included the renewal of the meeting time at the library (taken care of by Bob Fritsch), and a request from ANA to become a patron of the 2001 Atlanta Convention. A motion was made, seconded and carried to donate \$25 to it. The treasurer will send a check.

The monthly quiz, which highlighted several club members, was reviewed to remind everyone of the contributions made to the club by these people. Banquet details were told: 11 June at Newicks, cocktails at 6:30PM and dinner at 7PM. 30 members and guests were estimated.

Trip reports started with John Statkum's journey to Washington, DC. He contacted the Congressman and got free tickets to the BEP, Capitol, and the White House. He got head of line with those tickets so it is worth it to contact our representative in Washington. Gary Galbo traveled to Bowers & Merena in Wolfeboro to view auction lots. He passed around a MCMVII High Relief St. Gaudens \$20 gold piece. Gary's auction is on Saturday, and he has many lots from inactive member Charlie Curfman. John Connary told of several robberies Chuck had in the early 70s -- John lives in the same neighborhood and sold everything he had to buy a new

truck. There was a discussion about Palladium, which is falling like a rock in the precious metals market. Bob Fritsch told of his adventures in San Diego -- he belongs to five clubs there and attended them all in a recent three week trip out there. He also showed a medal of Napoleon III dated 1859 that was sculpted by Antoine Bovy, a Swiss Medalist. Bob is planning a series of articles on Bovy and his works for various publications. Ken Camilleis found a 1915D Cent in a "penny cup" at a local store. Roger Levesque showed a key fob from the Indian Head Bank. Charlie Dube has checks from Indian Head and blotters from the Second National Bank of Nashua. He sold several of them to members. Ken Young passed out several foreign coins, many of which were FAO issues, for a coin ID contest.

John Statkum won the attendance raffle of \$4.75 during the break.

Nominations for the first club awards were gathered with the following results:

Gold Medal - Alan Brouillard, Bob Fritsch, Gary Galbo

Numismatic Achievement - Alan Brouillard, Randy Bullis Bob Fritsch, Gary Galbo

Literary - Bart Bartanowicz, Ken Camilleis, Bob Fritsch

YN - David Heimbach, Tim Walant.

Congratulations to all of these nominees. Voting for the finalists was conducted and the results will be announced at next month's banquet.

ANA is in Atlanta this year and Gary Galbo and Bob Fritsch will be going. Under New Business, the ANA Elections are at hand. It was moved, seconded, and approved to vote for John Wilson for President and no others for the club vote. All ANA members were encouraged to send in their ballots by ANA Club Representative Bob Fritsch. Upcoming events are the auction on Saturday, the Third Sunday show, and Chelmsford the following Sunday.

Bob Fritsch has been storing the club's electrical cords for years and Gary will now store them in his shop. Two auction catalogs were auctioned for \$5.00 to the Treasury. YN picks for July are Canada and Mexico. We need more contributions to the YN jug. A short discussion on coin searches throughout the country found that many banks do not really like to deal in 50 States Quarters, and that they don't like dealing with you if you're not a customer.

The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is the annual banquet 11 June.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Fritsch, Secretary

From the Prez.

I want to thank everyone for attending our May meeting. What a GREAT turn out. The nominations and final vote went very smoothly. I am anxiously looking forward to the June Banquet and the Awards. It would be nice to give everyone an award. It truly is a pleasure to go to the meetings and be with so many people with the same intrests. Once again I would like to let everyone know that our banquet will be held at Newicks in Merimack on June 11,2001 cocktails will be served at 6:30 pm with the meal at 7:00. Hope to see everyone there. Enjoy your Memorial Holiday.

Gary says there is a Small Cent's II auction scheduled for July 28, 2001. He is in search of quality consignments

MAY QUIZ

Since the banquet is upon us, here are some questions about FOOD. I promise, no boiled EAGLE is in this quiz.

1. What food is depicted on the Lincoln Cent?
2. What delicious food is depicted on the Mount Rushmore Half Dollar of 1991 (in the original form)?
3. What U.N. organization sponsors many world coin issues with the motto GROW MORE FOOD?
4. In 1967, Canada offered a tasty menu of game with the Confederation Centennial series. What edible critters were depicted on the Cent, 5 Cent, 10 Cent, and Dollar?

APRIL ANSWERS

1. John Statkum, with membership number C7.
2. Charlie Dube, Don Pickering, Ken Young, Roger Levesque, and John Connary.
3. Going backwards: Bart Bartanowicz, Alan Brouillard, Bob Fritsch, Gary Galbo.
4. See the list every month in the newsletter.

Show Calendar

15-17 June - Baltimore, MD

17 JUN - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

15 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

8-12 AUG - ANA ATLANTA

19 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

COIN OF THE MONTH

There was no Coin of the Month.

COTM for July will be the **Buffalo Nickel** in

FORTY YEARS AS A NUMISMATIST
PART IV - THE LAST TEN YEARS
by Ken Camilleis

So I showed the old, tiny silver coin to the librarian and said, "I'd like to discover a place where I can find *lots* of these. "Camp meetings", she said. She gave me some literature on one of the most popular attractions of the mid-19th century. About a year later, in October 1992, I found the site – and an 1853 half dime was perhaps the first dead giveaway of the location. Over the next several years at this site I metal-detected nearly 100 large cents, 27 half dimes, 5 Capped Bust dimes, early Seated (1840-53) dimes, an 1837 Capped Bust quarter, and many Spanish silver coins from the late 1700s and early 1800s that were legal tender until the time the camp closed. This experience was certainly a highlight of my numismatic career.

As an adjunct to my interests in antebellum (pre-Civil War) America, in 1993 I began seriously collecting U.S. coins of the latter generation of this period. I began studying certain series and compiling data on market appearances (including auctions) of all dates of certain series. Especially noteworthy are my stats on Capped Bust halves and Reduced Size quarters of 1831-38. During the 1990s I joined the John Reich Collectors' Society, the Liberty Seated Collectors' Club and the Early American Coppers. Each of these organizations is of course devoted to the pursuit of its respective type coins and varieties and die states within. During these years and with the help and support of these groups and related literature, I have gleaned a wealth of information especially about late-generation antebellum (1820-60) coinage running the gamut of most types from half cents to double eagles.

Today, the coins I cherish are a rare 1836 proof-only half cent (only 42 confirmed!), an 1833 quarter eagle in AU (mintage 4,160 with about 150-200 known "survivors"), an 1838 \$10 in XF (a rare date "first year of type" at 7,200 mintage) and a smattering of mint-state coins from 1820 to 1855. I got out of *quantity* and into *quality*. Every so often, when the mood strikes, I'll go to the bank and share a few treasured "up close and personal" moments with these coins.

And I have relentlessly pursued through research – in what precious little leisure time I've had – former congregation or revival meeting sites that were abandoned during the 1850s or earlier and obliterated by the ravages of Mother Nature and Father Time. I haven't yet found a gold coin – but that's my next goal – even a well-worn '34 Classic \$5 would make my millenium.

* * * * *

Forty years have passed – that's 14,610 rising and setting suns and beaming moons – since that Ground Hog day when Mom blessed me with a lucky penny which was the impetus to get me off and winging. And my enthusiasm for the hobby of numismatics at age 47 is just as strong as it was at age 7. Through thick and thin, through peaks and valleys, profits and losses, booms and busts, I've never lost my grip on this wonderful pastime. Guess I'm still "a kid at heart"!

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**NEXT MEETING 11 JUNE AT
NEWICKS RESTARAUNT**



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

June 2001
Volume 5 Number 6
Whole Number 53

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S PRESTIGIOUS NUMISMATIC AWARDS!

Editor's Note

The club's very first awards banquet on June 11, 2001 went very well to say the least. Great food, great company, and great accomplishments recognized justly with awards presentations and plaques. Twenty-two members attended accompanied by Thirteen guests. Two of our honored guests were former president Ed St. Onge and former vice president Chuck Curfman. What a pleasure to see that you can take a gentleman out of the coin club, but you can't take the coin club out of them. Too bad they didn't want to make a speech as well.

Speaking of speeches. Our guest speaker was Robert "Bart" Bartanowicz and what a fine speaker. A complete natural that spoke from the heart about coin collecting and coin collectors. We can only hope that next year's speaker will be just as enjoyable.

It has been suggested that we put together a committee in our club that will be in charge of next year's banquet. Actions wouldn't be needed until January or February of next year. The committee will decide how to host the elections, create award guidelines, print forms, have plaques created, host a vote on which restaurant to utilize, and find a formidable guest speaker. Sounds easy, right? Enclosed in this newsletter, you will also have photos of the event and everyone that came. My apologies for the light printing on some due to my print cartridge running low.

I am glad we could all be there together and hope that everyone had as good a time as I. I look forward to next year's banquet with great enthusiasm.

Your editor,
Randy Bullis

Young Numismatist Award Tim Walant

.

Literary Numismatist Award Robert "Bart" Bartanowicz

.

Numismatic Achievement Award Gary Galbo

.

Gold Medal Numismatist Award Robert "Bob" Fritsch

From The Pres.

I just want to thank everyone who attended the June Banquet and First Annual Awards ceremony. It was a GREAT success. It's always nice to get together and have fun. Does everyone have there Rhode Island quarters? Not too much to say for I have been busy traveling back and forth to Pa., I'm in the middle of moving my sister up here.

What an experience. Hope to see everyone at the July meeting. Bye for now.

SHOW CALENDAR

8 Jul - Chelmsford, MA

15 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

22 Jul - Auburn, MA

28 JUL - SMALL CENTS II

AUCTION, HOLIDAY INN

8-12 AUG - ANA ATLANTA

19 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

22-24 Aug - NE Coin Expo, Mansfield, MA

THANK YOU FROM BOB FRITSCH

Fellow members, colleagues, and friends. You are fellow members because year after year we have met to discuss coins month after month, year after year. You are colleagues in the greatest hobby in the world, joined together by our common bond of numismatics. And over all those years you have, each and every one of you, become friends. This Nashua Coin Club has given me much to be thankful for.

When I first came to this club, it was a dying organization, dominated by a few who talked about anything BUT numismatics. There were some of us who did not like that, and we brought the meetings back into talking about coins. New programs were started to spark interest; some worked, which we kept and some did not, which we dumped. The net result was to get the club growing again, which brings us where we are today.

This fine award which you have bestowed upon me is the result of lots of hard work, and not just my own. I had lots of good people working for the club when I was President, and I have worked for the same goal for other Presidents. The point is that I could not have won Numismatist of the Year without all of you beside me. This award is not an ending -- I cannot say that I have finally reached the pinnacle and can rest on my laurels. Instead I look upon it as an encouragement to keep on track and further serve the club. My travel cuts deeply into what I can do, but I shall do whatever I can to the best of my abilities.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Bob

JUNE QUIZ

Let's see what you know about BUFFALOS, or more correctly, BISON.

1. According to the 2001 Red Book, how many coins are in the Bison Five Cent Piece (aka Buffalo Nickel) series? Include all varieties listed.
2. Who was the designer of said series?
3. Why was the switch made from the Type I to Type II in 1913, and what was the unintended side effect?
4. What created the famous 1937D Three-Legs variety?

MAY ANSWERS

1. Wheat. 2. Buffalo. 3. The Food and Agricultural Organization. FAO coins are a favorite topical collection. 4. Dove, rabbit, salmon, Canada goose. The bobcat on the 25 cent and the wolf on the 50 cents wouldn't make a good meal (although you make a good meal for them!).

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for July will be the Buffalo Nickel in honor of the Buffalo Dollar.

1850 – WHAT A YEAR!

by Ken Camilleis

As the year 2000 marks the sesquicentennial of the year 1850, this moment in time presents a fitting opportunity to “look back”. To look back at how much the country has changed over the last 150 years, and in some respects, how it has remained the same.

National Politics: The year 1850 was deep in the heart of *Manifest Destiny*. West of the Mississippi, the United States was growing by leaps and bounds. The newly discovered “gold country” of California was this year admitted into the Union as a state. Slavery was abolished in the region of the Nation’s Capital. New Mexico became a U.S. territory. These were some of the end results of what has historically been referred to as the *Compromise of 1850*.

The “North” and “South” regions of the country were by 1850 divided not only over the existence of slavery but also over territorial issues including those related to *admission* of slavery into newly acquired territories. While the Mexican War had already come to a close (by surrender to the hand of General Winfield Scott in September 1847 and the signing of the Guadalupe-Hidalgo peace treaty in February 1848), war hero Zachary Taylor, who had been elected President in November 1848 and inaugurated March 4, 1849, was embroiled in a quest to bind the Union by brute force. Taylor died in Washington on July 9, 1850, and was succeeded by Millard Fillmore, whose policies were not as rigorous as Taylor’s, thus culminating in the Compromise.

Economics: In 1850, the federal budget debt was less than \$70 million. (Yes, *million* with an “M”!) According to the 1850 census, the population of the U.S. was 23 million – less than 1/10 of today’s figure yet in no way proportionate to the budget deficit!! In relative terms, in 1850 people worked as hard as, if not harder than, they do today to earn an honest living. For instance, in 1850, the average annual wage for men in New England’s textile mills was \$240 (\$20 per month) and for the ladies, who worked longer hours, \$160. A farm hand generally earned somewhere in the range of \$120-\$140 per year.

Economically, the midpoint of the 19th century was a dynamic time, largely as a result of the North American version of the “Industrial Revolution”. A vulcanized (we were now into the “rubber age”, courtesy of Mr. Goodyear) button-down coat cost about \$5 as a relative novelty. A plush home in West Needham (later Wellesley/Weston) was valued around the \$1000-\$2000 range, although seldom did property change hands outside of immediate families. But in 1850, a Bartlett pear was considered so rare and coveted that it cost about \$20.67 – the value of an ounce of gold!

And speaking of gold ... by 1850 the economy had been boosted by the 1848-49 discovery of the yellow metal. Per the Act of March 3, 1849, two new gold denominations would make their debut: the gold dollar in 1849 and the double eagle in 1850. By mid-1850 these two denominations were widely recognized as “general circulation” specie. Also, the newfound surplus of gold bullion would allow for the stepping up of mintages of gold coins of the existing denominations (\$2.50, \$5 and \$10). At this same time, private enterprises were striking gold coins which are historically and numismatically referred to as *territorial issues*. Most of the territorial gold coins, despite the fact that they are not U.S. Mint products, are very rare and acclaimed.

Silver coins minted in 1850 (\$1, 50c, 25c, 10c, 5c) were of the Seated Liberty/No Motto & Stars designs and were produced in Philadelphia and New Orleans. The large copper cent and half cent were of the modified “Braided Hair” style of the Coronet design. The half cent circulated minimally, with production of this denomination for business halted for many years prior to 1849. Pocket change in 1850 also included silver coins from countries under Spanish rule, such as the *piece of eight* and its fractional denominations of four, two, one and one-half reales. Such were still considered “coin of the realm”.

Entertainment: In 1850, besides traditional classical tunes, popular dance music was often of the minstrel style. Mid-19th century period instruments included, but were not limited to, the banjo, fiddle and bones. Some popular minstrel hits of 1850 were 1849’s **Keemo Kimo** (a southern plantation slave ballad) and 1847’s **Cape Cod Girls** (a sea chantey reflecting New England’s maritime era). Daniel Emmett with his numerous compositions was “king” of the minstrelsy in 1850, and other artists such as Stephen Foster, Charles “Cool” White and George Briggs published or revised popular minstrel pieces in the 1840s and 1850s.

In 1850, one of the most popular social attractions was the *camp meeting*. Actually a religious institution, the camp meeting evolved during the first half of the 19th century as a revival gathering, spawned by 18th-century concepts of religious expression of freedom, chiefly through the Methodist movement. By 1850, lands set aside for camp meeting were in abundance. Camp meetings at this time usually took place during the summer and lasted about one week. At camp meeting, attendants often got so emotionally overwrought that they would lose money and jewelry and other personal effects in the throes of spiritual experiences. Many Seated Liberty and Capped Bust and Spanish silver coins, as well as large cents, remain today at what were once (circa 1850) camp meeting grounds, unless discovered with the aid of a metal detector.

Local (New England region) Happenings: In 1850 statutes were passed allowing police and other law enforcement officials to act as agents to bring escaped slaves to whence they came. This was a fallout from the Compromise. In Boston, for example, in 1850-51 abolitionist newspapers cautioned Negroes, especially those that may have escaped on the Underground Railroad, to avoid being observed by or conversing with police as they were known to kidnap blacks for shipment back to a slave state (notwithstanding slavery having been abolished in Massachusetts in 1780!).

In 1850, near the tail end of the potato famine that devastated Ireland during the previous five years, mass immigration of Irish peasants to Boston took place, as well as to other eastern locales. That fall, there was a report of spoilage of potato crops in Massachusetts, most notably on Cape Cod. A connection between the fungus *phytophthora infestans* that killed the Irish staple and this more recent blight was suspected, because at the time, native potatoes were not cultivated locally, but rather the potato seeds were imported from Ireland. It was also believed that the fungus that made its way to Ireland had originated in the Boston area around 1845.

* * * * *

All things considered, 1850 was a pivotal year in the nation’s history. The Civil War could well have begun in 1850 or 1851 if not for Fillmore’s approach to dealing with conflict, along with the events that took place throughout the 1850s. The discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1848 created a frenzy that swept the nation from coast to coast, and completely transformed the *attitude* of the nation. Many people had visions, those of their own well-being and those for the future of their country, a country bound by “God and Gold”. However, in 1850 no one knew *when* their nation would be terrorized by civil war – 1850 was a “one day at a time” year.

We think about how much the country – and the world for that matter – has changed in the last 150 years. Historically, we look back at all the turbulence that existed during the United States’ first century as a unified nation, and how times and morale have changed, mostly for the better. It is *only* through the eyes of *history* that we can perceive the full picture, though. Historians have the unique opportunity to achieve this perception. On the other hand, in certain areas of the country, there is still much of the unrest of centuries past. And through research, it is possible to discover scenarios (such as the aforementioned abandoned camp meeting sites) where time has frozen in the second quarter of the 19th century. Even in this dynamic world, perception through historical study and research can sometimes prove that some aspects of life simply do not change with the passage of time.

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VP - Alan Brouillard

VP - Randy Bullis

Secretary - Robert "Bart" Bartanowicz

Treasurer - Bob Fritsch

Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Kurt Frank

Editor - Bob Fritsch/Randy Bullis

This Newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright © 2001 by the Nashua Coin Club unless otherwise noted. Questions, comments, and articles may be sent to bobfritsch@earthlink.net or Randenator@aol.com on email or to PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003. Deadline is the Friday following the monthly meeting.

Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

**NEXT MEETING 9 JULY AT THE
LIBRARY**

June 11th Awards Banquet Attendees



Carol and Robert Landry



Randy and Annie Bullis



Trina and Frank Clark



Pierre Dionne



Cheryl, Tim, and Joey Cerato



Marita and Ken Camilleis



Figure 1. (a) Normal



Figure 1. (b) Normal



Figure 2. (a) Normal



Figure 2. (b) Normal



Figure 3. (a) Normal



Figure 3. (b) Normal

June 11th Awards Banquet Attendees



Foreground: Derek Connary Left to Right in Back: Former Pres. Ed St. Onge, Sharon St. Onge,
Former V.P. Chuck Curfman, Eva Curfman, John Connary.



John Statkum and Bart Bartanowicz



Bruce and David Heimbach



Carol Balcom and Roger Levesque



Alan Brouillard

June 11th Awards Banquet Attendees



Timothy Walant



Glen and Jacinta Walant



Andrew and Melissa Walant



Diane Statkum and Tim Samson



Laurie Cerato and Gary Galbo



Charlie Dube

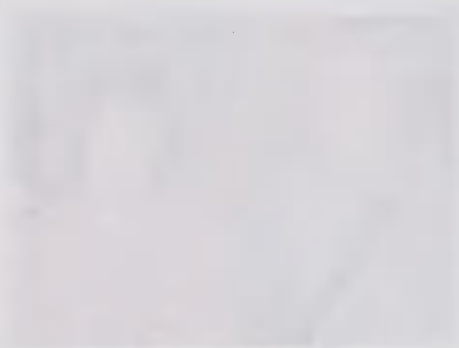


Fig. 1. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)



Fig. 2. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)



Fig. 3. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)



Fig. 4. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)



Fig. 5. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)



Fig. 6. (Caption text is illegible due to extreme fading.)

Awards Presentations



Gary acknowledges the former Pres and V.P.



Bart is guest speaker. Great speech!



President Heimbach announces the awards.



Tim Walant accepts Young Numismatist Award



Bart accepts Literary Numismatist Award



Gary accepts the Numismatic Achievement Award

Robert Fritsch was not available to accept the Gold Medal Numismatist Award and thus, no photo.



Minutes of the NCC

7/9/01

Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Heimbach at 7:00 PM. Fourteen members and one guest were in attendance.

Secretary Bartanowicz reviewed correspondence received by the club. This included the Winter 2001 issue of the "NONAGON", June and July copies of the "Numismatist" and assorted promotional documents. One of the documents offered a free web page. Discussion was deferred on the offer until the next meeting when Bob Fritsch returns to get his advice and status on the original idea for a club web page.

Club members were very satisfied with the June Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Planning took place for the June 2002 event with members volunteering for the following assignments:

- Restaurant arrangements—Alan Brouillard
- Guest speaker solicitation—Bart Bartanowicz
- Preparation of Program and Certificates—Randy Bullis
- Plaques—Bob Landry

Club sponsorship of the Third Sunday Coin Show was discussed. The club will sponsor the September show. Gary Galbo will coordinate with Jim Guinesso.

Gary Galbo discussed his upcoming auction set for July 28. Gary said that this will be his biggest auction

to date with over 750 lots and most have no reserve. Gary explained what reserves were and how they were normally arrived at or set. Gary indicated that he expected a large showing of dealers and that it would also be a good opportunity for collectors.

A discussion of the new Buffalo Silver Dollars took place. To date no has received any of the coins. Several members had purchased extra sets anticipating a rise in prices over the initial mint prices.

Club Show and Tell:

Roger Levesque demonstrated how to make a square with four Buffalo Nickels.

Roger also showed club members a "fake" 3-Legged Buffalo Nickel. Ken Cameillis shared some of his recent finds. Most notable was a Memorial Day find which was a British 1694 double portrait William & Mary coin. Other finds included a half-penny and a copper based French coin originating in the 17th or 18th Century.

Tim Walant provided a report on Mexican coins. For successfully completing his report, Tim was afforded the privilege of securing additional coins from the NCC "grab bag" which included a mixed lot of Canadian, Phillipines and French coins.

Bob Landry brought in a tube of quarters with a face value of \$15.25 and offered to sell them at face value

for anyone wishing to put together a quarter set.

Ken Camilles won the member raffle which came to \$3.75. Randy Bullis won the Buffalo Nickel coin of the month contest which came to 8 coins.

From the Prez.

I want to thank everyone for attending the July meeting. It seems that in the summer when there is so much GREAT weather out there, the attendance drops of. I just want to say it seems like we don't have that problem. It does my heart good to see everyone there month after month. Has anyone out there received there Buffalo Dollars yet? I keep looking for them every day when I come home. I won't forget to bring the Denver minted state quarters in for the August meeting. Bring your thumb busters in and get the ones you need. See you at the August meeting

EDITOR'S NOTE

A couple of meetings ago, I heard a dreadful thought. Gary was thinking of closing down the Small Cents II store front. I must admit, my dread was very selfish in nature because he has great reasons for closing it down (unnecessary overhead costs, more internet and auction sales, very slow sales, too busy, etc.). However, on the other hand, I remember a time when I was in sixth grade.

I lived in a small city in a remote region of Northern Vermont. In 1976 a coin show was hosted in the town. It was my first and it was exciting. I was able to browse, study expensive coins, and allowed by my father to purchase some inexpensive foreign and Lincoln cents. This was one event that has remained in my mind since and was the only time a coin show was hosted in my town. There was also no coin shop. After hearing me beg for more, my father would drive me to a coin shop nearly 50 miles away, but not very often.

This left me with ordering through the mail, and sometimes getting the over graded or cleaned coins that come along with full page ads. Now days, the internet fills this part of the story for most people. It works, but it's not the same as being able to browse the coins, dreaming of buying those out of my price range, and then choosing the ones that absorbed my interest. If it wasn't for browsing, I would have remained a Lincoln cent collector. Instead, I started on mercury dimes, buffalo nickels, and (even though I only owned a couple) Bust halves. Did I also mention that having a friendly store owner helps as well. Enter Gary.

Just recently, Gary has announced that he would remain opened. HOORAY! Young collectors still have a place to shop and older collectors still have a place to consider the general store, where we can sit around and discuss numismatic politics.

Thank you Gary!

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for August will be New Hampshire Tokens.

JULY QUIZ

This quiz will center on New Hampshire Tokens.

Within five, how many Civil War Tokens are attributed to NH?

2. How many tokens made by the Star Stamp Company were issued for the 1896 Manchester 50th Anniversary? BONUS: Name the issuers.

3. Dave Bowers recently discovered the meaning behind counterstamped large cents bearing the legends "USE/G.G.G" and "USE/G.G.G./&/G.G.G.G." What do all those "G"s mean and who issued them?

4. NH Highway Tokens have two major legends. What are they?

JUNE ANSWERS

1. 71. 2. James Earle Fraser. 3. The FIVE CENTS on the reverse wore down quickly so it was recessed. Several minor modifications were made including making the base below the bison straight. Unfortunately, the changes made the date wear down rapidly. 4. Excessive grinding of a clashed die.

SHOW CALENDAR

8-12 AUG - ANA ATLANTA

19 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

22-24 Aug - NE Coin Expo, Mansfield, MA

26 Aug - Chelmsford, MA

9 Sep - Auburn, MA

THE U.S. COINAGE OF 1838

by Ken Camilleis

In 1838 the United States was just emerging from one of the worst financial disasters in the nation's history. Hard money was scarce, and legal tender coin (gold and silver) was very much in demand as specie for large and important transactions. There was even a shortage of minor (copper) coin, and private manufacture of one-cent tokens (aka "Hard Times Tokens") as a substitute exchange medium was at its summit in 1838. Such tokens, first made in 1834, were not U.S. Mint products, and many of them were satirical of those in government office and their policies. To try to mend the economy, President Martin Van Buren would have his work cut out for him.

From a numismatic viewpoint, perhaps the most interesting development in 1838 was the opening of the *branch mints*, three in all. Beginning in 1838, the New Orleans mint would strike silver coins with the distinctive "O" mint mark, and the following year gold coinage would begin in New Orleans. In 1838 mints were established in Charlotte, North Carolina and Dahlonega, Georgia exclusively for the production of gold coin.

The U.S. series of 1838 begins with the large copper cent, coined in an abundant (for this time) sum of over 6 million pieces. The 1838 large cent is of the style of Coronet with the "Young Head" that was modified in 1837. The 1838 cent has a line under "CENT" and typically has a raised reverse rim. Many varieties of the 1838 cent are attributed to specialist Newcomb. Cents were coined in Philadelphia only. No half cents were coined in 1838.

The half dime of 1838 was coined to the Seated Liberty design with the "No Drapery" subtype, which was introduced in 1837 with no stars on the obverse. At the beginning of 1838 the stars were added to the Philadelphia issues. In New Orleans, 70,000 half dimes were coined with the "No Stars" obverse.

The dime of 1838 was also of the Seated Liberty/No Drapery design, and like the half dime usually comes well-struck. The majority of dimes minted in 1838 were out of Philadelphia, although some 400,000 were coined in New Orleans with the No Stars obverse. Initially, the stars on the Philly dimes and half dimes were smaller, and later in 1838 they were enlarged.

The quarter dollar of 1838 comes in two distinct types, as in mid-year the design changed from Capped Bust to Seated Liberty. Only one variety of the 1838 Bust quarter is known (attributed to Ard W. Browning circa 1908). The Seated/No Drapery quarter of 1838 is known by varieties identified by members of the Liberty Seated Collectors' Club. All quarters of 1838 (both types) were coined only in Philadelphia.

The half dollar of 1838 is exclusively of the Capped Bust design, with the reeded edge that was introduced late in 1836. In this year is the first appearance of the legend "HALF DOL.". The 1838 half is actually a cross between the 1807-1836 Bust obverse (slightly modified) and the Seated Liberty reverse, this design having debuted for the half dollar in 1839. Interesting die states have been observed in the 1838 halves. And in the 1838 New Orleans half we have a classic rarity – a presentation striking of which only 20 are believed to have been coined!

The only silver dollar issued in 1838 is an extremely rare pattern proof designed by Christian Gobrecht in 1836. It has been believed that only 31 original dollar coins were struck in 1838, although "restrikes" of this date were made in later years. None of the 1838 dollars were intended for circulation, although some undoubtedly escaped. The 1838 dollar has a reeded edge, whereas the first issue of 1836 has a plain edge.

The quarter eagle of the Classic Head design was issued in Philadelphia and in Charlotte. The Philly issue is relatively common, while the "C" mint mark issue is scarce with an original mintage of 7,880 and few high-grade survivors today. The half eagle of 1838 was issued in Philadelphia, Charlotte and Dahlonega. The "C" and "D" issues of 1838 are scarce. It is noted that the Classic Head half eagle, which was introduced in 1834 and retired after the 1838 production, apparently had the reverse die reengraved, because 1838 specimens come with more of a point at the base of the shield. Choice mint-state examples of 1838 half eagles are hard to locate.

The eagle (\$10) denomination was reintroduced in 1838 after having not been coined since 1804. An apparent abundance of eagles minted from 1795-1804 along with foreign gold equivalents was all that was needed until ex-President Jackson's Specie Circular executive order caused increased demand for such a denomination. However, only 7,200 eagles were coined in 1838 (all in Philadelphia), thereby creating a traditional scarcity; in 1839 and most later years the mintage of the eagle would be considerably higher. Very few mint-state specimens of 1838 \$10 are known today. According to some research literature, 1838 eagles were coined out of gold melted down from "Smithson's Sovereigns", which were a hoard of British sovereigns gathered by the man to whom the Smithsonian Institute is named. And it was in June of 1838 that the "Mint Cabinet" collection was started at the Smithsonian.

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**NEXT MEETING 13 AUGUST AT
THE LIBRARY**



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

August 2001
Volume 5 Number 8
Whole Number 55

NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting
August 2001

The meeting was opened at 7:08PM by President Bruce Heimbach with 14 members and two guests present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's Report. Correspondence included a copy of The Numismatist and a returned newsletter addressed to Carl Greenbaum. Gary Galbo announced that 2002 Red Books were available at a discounted price for club members. New Buffalo Dollars were passed around and commented upon. Bob Fritsch thanked the members for voting him Numismatist of the Year. A possible website was discussed; a suggestion was made to check with ANA for piggybacking their site.

Guest Tom Vancor is 14 years old and collects proof sets. Tom was welcomed to the club. Roger Levesque read from a coin newsletter about "low" prices that really weren't because the standard income of years past was very low. It is amazing that any coins were saved when a half dollar, for example, was a significant piece of the weekly budget. Discussion returned to the Buffalo dollar's crazy prices and mediocre quality. It was announced that the "Club Show" would be in September at the Third Sunday Show.

The quiz was read and answered. One of the questions was about counterstamped coins -- there was a

Nashua Photographer, A.W. Reed, who would counterstamp Indian Cents. The question was asked about NH Highway Tokens -- Why the "A" and "B" punches? Were they originally issued that way? Don Pickering passed around some W.J. Boyd Milk Company tokens good for a pint and a quart of milk, ad Building 19 Amusement Token, and a token from Fun World, Nashua. Gary Galbo gave his ANA Report. Heritage Auction did not have a lot of good stuff. Not much was in dealer stock either. Almost everything was high grade with corresponding high costs. He mentioned his own auctions. He sold a 1909S-VDB for \$850. Auction highlights were discussed and the conversation got onto weird collectibles -- toothpick holders, advertising pens and shoe horns. At the break, Tim Walant won the attendance raffle of \$3.75, and Bob Fritsch won the Coin of the Month draw with 9 tokens.

Bob then gave his ANA Report. He goes to the conventions for the club meetings and bought very little. He was elected President of International Order of Wooden Money Collectors (IOWMC), Vice President of The Elongated Collectors (TEC), and is on the board of a couple of more clubs. As usual, he came home from the ANA one tired puppy. Bob also donated a book to the club raffle about Georgia banking, which was raffled off for \$7.00.

Tim Walant gave his YN Report on a 1967 Canadian Cent, a French 10

Centimes, and a Philippines 1 Sentimo.

Ken Camilleis showed a 1878 Victoria sixpence with a distinct "48" above the date [This is the Die Number, according to the Coincraft Catalog]. The jingle, "Sixpence in her shoe," makes a continuing demand for this coin. Guest Carol Balcom finds our meetings fascinating and was invited to join the club. Discussion then migrated to the original coin holders (from the Mint, for example) and the [over]emphasis on them. There was a reminder of upcoming shows.

The meeting was closed at 8:59PM. Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Fritsch Recording

President's Message

Another month has passed. The summer is gone. The children are back in school. WOW how time flies. I hope everyone had a chance to attend the Nashua coin show. I had a chance to check out some of the dealers prices for the Buffalo Coinage and Currency Set. I went to three, here are their prices \$185,\$155,\$145. The Mint sold them for \$54.95 plus shipping and handling, what a difference. I'm still searching for my first Gold coin, a 1907 two and a half dollar gold piece. Hope everyone purchased their Vermont quarters. See you in September. I think there is a song there somewhere.

It's the History!

The ANA attendance figures are in for the Atlanta Convention and it isn't good as reported in the "Numismatic News" this week. The Atlanta venue had some 12,000 people attending as compared to nearly 20,000 for the Philadelphia venue last year. What went wrong? That is, most of us were expecting record numbers based on the large Philadelphia turnout last year which many (that would be the people in our local New Hampshire/Greater Boston collecting area) thought was partially attributable to the new State Quarters and a swarm of new collectors.

Was Atlanta a bad location, were people not interested in coins or what was the dynamic at work here?

My simple answer starts with the proposition that most coin collectors have a deep interest in history. As such they are drawn to venues where there is history and accessible transportation to historical venues. Also people like to be near quaint places to shop for things other than numismatic items. Philadelphia has the history, the convention center was across from Reading Market, which is a wonderful place to shop, and everything is convenient regarding transportation. Another point is that if one did a census of coin collectors in the United States, I suspect that one would probably discover that the majority of collectors would be captured in a 300-500 mile radius of Philadelphia.

So what's the point? For one it is certainly time that Boston steps up to the plate as a future ANA venue. History, coin collectors, attractions, excellent transportation, etc. After all, Boston is the hub of the universe! Do we abandon other parts of the country and the wonderful dedicated collectors that there are on both coasts and Middle America, absolutely not! We do need to find out what the ANA membership and coin-collecting community wants and select our venues accordingly so we can maintain the momentum that this great hobby has. It does no good to fault anyone for the less than splendid showing at Atlanta. The people of Atlanta were great all the way from the airport to the convention center and the hotels and restaurants. But for whatever reason, the convention lacked the "buzz and excitement" of Philadelphia. The ANA and our elected officials certainly worked hard and I know that they were also probably disappointed. But we can move and do great things with future venues.

AUGUST QUIZ

What do you know about Canadian Numismatics? Let's find out with these simple questions.

-
- 1. The U.S. 50 States Quarters program is based on what Canadian coin program of what year?
-
- 2. Who/what is the Voyageur of the Voyageur Dollars?
-
- 3. Since 1945, most Canadian coin dies have been coated with what and for what reason?
-
- 4. What year did the Dominion of Canada begin striking coins?

JULY ANSWERS

- 1. Just one, from A.W. Gale, Concord.
- 2. 8 - Star Stamp Company; Dumas Brothers, Jewelers and Opticians; W.H. Shivlock, Engravers; Manchester Clothing Co; W.P. Farmer, Fine Footwear; New City Hotel; Kimball the Clothier; Children's Chorus.
- 3. Goodwin's Grand Grease Juice (hair tonic) and Goodwin's Grand Glittering Globules (breath perfume). Goodwin was a druggist and manufacturing chemist from Exeter, NH.
- 4. New Hampshire Public Works and Highways; New Hampshire Department of Transportation. It looks like the Public Works legend was supplanted by the DOT one, then came back

Show Calendar

- 9 Sep - Auburn, MA
- 15 SEP - TRI-STATE, CONCORD**
- 16 SEP - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**
- 23 Sep - Chelmsford, MA
- 23 Sep - Woonsocket, RI
- 29 SEP - SMALL CENTS II AUCTION, HOLIDAY INN**
- 4-7 Oct - Long Beach, CA
- 14 Oct - Auburn, MA
- 21 OCT - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**

COLOR-GRADING OF EARLY AMERICAN COPPER – Part I

By Ken Camilleis

Many years ago, I drafted a proposal to the ANA that a new scale be adopted for more comprehensive evaluation of U.S. copper coins. As we know, the only designations used to describe color are “Red”, “Red-Brown” and “Brown”. However, numismatists who have examined tens of thousands of collectible mint state copper coins have observed that there is really a myriad of different hues and toning patterns for copper, and the degree of eye appeal of the various colors is largely a matter of personal preference. It is also noted that the obverse and reverse of a copper-based coin may exhibit dramatically contrasting colors or toning texture. This is especially true of early (1793-1857) U.S. copper; large cents and half cents, as they are just that – *pure*, unadulterated copper, no additives! And early coppers are the focus of this article.

It is noteworthy that, when focusing on antebellum coinage, it is not the gold coin (*1) nor the silver, but the lowly copper that is the hardest to find in true, *original mint state*. It is true that the market is flooded with large cents and half cents that are slabbed MS-60 to MS-65 “Brown” (BN) and to some extent “Red-Brown” (RB), but only a tiny percentage of the sample space of marketable early coppers meet the color designation of “Red” (RD). Why is this? Copper, being a much more chemically reactive metal than silver or gold, deteriorates microscopically whenever exposed to natural elements. Airborne particles of dust, radiation from sunlight, exposure to water runoff, and other causes of the spread of copper molecules contribute to the effect of *chemical reaction*. This reaction could be anything as benign as light discoloration (as from a fingerprint or envelope or paper wrapper) to the ultimate self-destruct of pitting (metal eaten away) and/or fused copper sulfate known as *verdigris*, which takes on various shades of green pigment and is very unattractive. This extreme reaction takes place when copper is exposed to chemical elements with a high factor of acidity. Over a period of 144 to 208 years (the present age of early U.S. coppers), large cents and half cents have been exposed to numerous types of environmental scenarios. Therefore, for a copper to have maintained its full original red mint bloom, it would have to have been continually stored in an environment virtually impervious to the harsh effects of Mother Nature.

Of course – and most numismatists do not stop to think about this basic notion – a copper coin is not really “Uncirculated” or “Mint State” in the true sense of the term unless it is full red! Think about that for a moment – when an early copper left the mint, it was bright and shiny (*2), totally untarnished (poor planchet quality notwithstanding), struck on prepared blanks just as fresh as those of the modern copper cents that were made by the U.S. Mint up through 1982. Certainly a toned copper coin with no wear is worthy of a commercial designation of Mint State (60 to 70 BN or RB), just as an attractively toned silver coin could merit a high “MS” grade. However, it is obvious that it is quite a challenge to preserve copper for future generations in its *original mint state*. In fact, some of the most famous pedigreed coin collections sold to date, which had hundreds of Choice and Gem BU silver coins, were lacking an example of a full red large cent or half cent! More often than not, an early copper that appears brilliant has been at some point been cleaned or dipped to simulate original mint luster. This is most likely true if the coin has not been certified by one of the leading grading services, unless verifiable as a discovery new to the market.

Grading is another topic of heated debate, and grading is even more controversial when dealing with mint state copper because now we have the complication of trying to fit a color into one of three little boxes, when in fact the process of color analysis is hardly that simple. The result is that the market is flooded with slabbed RDs that should be RBs, RBs that should be RDs, BNs that should be RBs, and RBs that should be BNs. Because the distribution methods for copper were different from that of “major” coins, and because of the density of the copper material, contact marks are not as much of an issue with grading of copper as are carbon flyspecks and stains. These result from poor storage during any idle period in the coin’s existence, and are factors which reduce a slabbed coin’s technical “MS” rating. Also, the color really takes top priority. An MS-64 RD is better than an MS-65 RB to most early copper experts. Based on this notion I developed a spectral grading scale which I sent in to the ANA. This scale is called the Color Grading Index (CGI), and is based not on discrete colors but on reference values (as on a spectrum).

Succinctly, full red (RD) early coppers are *rare*, and whatever dates are known today in any significant quantity can probably be attributed to a discovery of a specific hoard. Next month I will discuss in detail the statistics on availability of full red early U.S. copper coins, and how the CGI ties into more accurate color assessment.

NOTES:

(1) Gold coins were subject to extensive contact in the process of transportation from the Mint and in commerce. However, gold is not subject to chemical reaction as is copper.

(2) Very early (c. 1793-1814) copper planchets usually did not polish well enough to provide the bright red or orange color usually seen on later dates.

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VP - Randy Bullis

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Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Kurt Frank

Editor - Bob Fritsch/Randy Bullis

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Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

NEXT MEETING 10 SEPTEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for September will be anything from Canada.

Minutes of Nashua Coin Club September 10, 2001 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by President Heimbach. Attendance was 14 members and two guests. Minutes of the August 13, 2001 meeting were approved as published in the NCC Numismatist. Secretary Bartanowicz reviewed correspondence.

Treasurer Bob Fritsch provided a treasurer's report on the club's financial status as of August 31, 2001. Total treasury came to \$2,859.89. Checking came to \$2,661.24 and petty cash is at \$198.65. Mr. Fritsch indicated that while the club appeared to be financially healthy, that we are currently spending more than we are taking in. Mr. Fritsch said that our main sources of income are the two yearly coin shows and annual dues. Additionally the club takes in money from club auctions through the sale of donated materials by club members. Expenses are the annual banquet, annual pizza party and publishing the monthly NCC Numismatist. Discussion took place about generating additional income. Members were encouraged to come up with suggestions. It was agreed that the club would accept individual member donations to help offset the cost of the pizza party.

Randy shared with the club the piece that appeared in Numismatic News, which spoke of the club's annual banquet and awards ceremony.

Bruce introduced our guest Dick Bishop who discussed his collection of town medals.

Bob Fritsch discussed the history of town medals in the United States. Bob stated that two of the best medal producers were the New

England companies Blackington and Robinson who produced excellent high relief medals.

Bob Fritsch conducted the August Quiz. Randy Bullis received a hand from club members for correctly answering question 4, which was one of Bob's trick questions.

Bob Fritsch discussed the poor production values for the Vermont quarter.

Charlie Dube provided a report on his trip to Atlanta where he received his ANA 50-year membership medal and pin. Charlie also picked up a couple of pieces for his collection.

Bob Fritsch reported that the ANA medals were struck for free by the Franklin Mint.

Roger Levesque brought in a 1987 FDR 10-cent piece with a "ruptured fern stem".

John Statkum won the raffle and received \$4.00.

New member Tom Vancor won the coin of the month raffle that consisted of 18 Canadian coins.

Ken Camilles mentioned the passing of long time Brookline, MA coin dealer William J. Wyzanski who Ken considered his mentor.

Ken shared an 1838 half dime in an NGC holder in MS-64. He discussed the "wavy effect" or side buckles common with the coin. Ken also shared his 1838 \$10 gold piece, which was PCGS holdered in XF-45.

Tim Walant discussed his "grab bag" of five items, which were indeed a "mixed bag."

Ken Young provided his views on the low attendance at the Atlanta ANA. Bob Fritsch reminded everyone that "attendance" is a relative term based on location and other variables. Ken also discussed "mules" and provided a handout to club members.

Discussion took place about the next

club meeting since it will fall on a holiday. The located will be posted in the next edition of the NCC Numismatist

Upcoming shows were mentioned including the 3rd Sunday show as well as the Small Cents II auction set for September 29. Bob Fritsch also mentioned the upcoming Tri-State Coin Show in Concord, NH. Bob encouraged members to enter the exhibit competition.

The club auction was quite spirited with 11 lots of numismatic literature brought in Charlie Dube who donated a portion of the profits (\$32.50) to the NCC. Charlie received \$17.00 and the club took in \$15.50. Thanks for your generosity Charlie!

Next meeting Coin of the Month will be anything south of the Panama Canal.

Meeting was adjourned by President Heimbach at 8:57

A very big THANK YOU goes out from all the members of the Nashua Coin Club to James Guinesso for his generosity in donating the coin show proceeds totaling \$200! We also thank him for hosting a great and wonderful coin show every 3rd Sunday!

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

Break out your history books and answer these questions about South America.

1. I helped to liberate South America from the Spanish and have a country named after me. Who am I?
2. I am a fabulous mountain of Silver that helped to enrich Spain. My mint was famous for cobs. Who am I? Bonus: What country am I in? Extra Bonus: What country was I in originally?
3. I am the liberator of Argentina and am featured on their coins of the 1950s. Who am I?
4. I had an Irish father and a Spanish mother and I helped to liberate Chile, earning a place on their coins. Who am I?

AUGUST ANSWERS

1. The 125 Set, commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation in 1992. 2. A Fur Trapper. 3. They are coated with Chromium to extend die life and give the coins a nice finish. 4. 1870, although the Province of Canada struck coins in 1858-59.

Editor's Correspondence

The club received a letter from Scott Vogel of the Delaware SPCA. He sent along the Numismatic News clipping about our club's award banquet which was shared with the members. Scott also sent along a dog tax tag from Nashua, NH 1946. It was voted that this be given to member Don Pickering since he has one of the best collections of Nashua memorabilia and would greatly appreciate it.

SHOW CALENDAR

- 9 Sep - Auburn, MA
15 SEP - TRI-STATE, CONCORD
16 SEP - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
23 Sep - Chelmsford, MA
23 Sep - Woonsocket, RI
29 SEP - SMALL CENTS II AUCTION, HOLIDAY INN
4-7 Oct - Long Beach, CA
14 Oct - Auburn, MA
21 OCT - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
28 Oct - W. Springfield, MA
28 Oct - Chelmsford, MA
4 Nov - Portland, ME
9-11 Nov - Bay State, Boston
11 Nov - Auburn, MA
18 NOV - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
24 NOV - SMALL CENTS II AUCTION, HOLIDAY INN
25 Nov - Chelmsford, MA
30 Nov-2 Dec - Baltimore, MD
7-9 Dec - NY International
9 Dec - Auburn, MA
16 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
23 Dec - Chelmsford, MA

From the Prez.

I just got back from Gary's Small Cents II, he has agreed to let us hold the October meeting at his store. Gary also told me to tell everyone that if they have any items to look at, under the microscope, they may bring them in. I would like to, at this time, THANK Gary for opening up his store for us to hold our October meeting. At the August meeting we discussed the idea of seeing what films on coins are available to us through the ANA. We will discuss this at the October meeting. Bart has just notified me that because of the tragedy in New York, he will be away a great deal so he is handing in his resignation as club secretary. Bart said he will be very busy over the next six months but will try to attend the meetings whenever possible. I know we will all miss Bart. I have also been asked to ask everyone to bring in chairs for the meeting at Gary's. Hope to see all of you there, it's going to be a great time.

COLOR-GRADING OF EARLY AMERICAN COPPER – Part II

By Ken Camilleis

Color on a copper coin is often confused with *luster*. Although uncirculated ("mint state") early copper coins are likely to be predominantly brownish in color, they exhibit a degree of luster, which is the coin's ability to reflect light. It is observed that a large cent could be completely browned over yet fully lustrous, and, conversely, a copper could retain full mint red color yet have no luster or very dull luster, often due to heavy spotting which breaks the stream of reflectivity. The grading services generally look at only the color and not the luster characteristics when assigning a grade of "RD", "RB" or "BN". The Color Grading Index (CGI), however, assigns a color grade (presently from 1 to 7 and not necessarily an integer) based not only on the amount of original mint red but also the degree of reflectivity. A chocolate brown or tan copper could place a respectable CGI rating, yet one that is totally dull (with no *luster*) would barely make the bottom percentile of the CGI scale. The CGI value starts out at 1.0 for freshly minted copper and gets larger, approaching 7.0 as the coin tarnishes. Although there is no standardized set of CGI grading numbers, if we used increments of tenths of a point, the CGI would have 61 different classifications for color-grading. In practice we don't need this many designations, but there is considerable flexibility in the use of the CGI.

Contact marks, carbon spots and other man-made imperfections have no bearing on the CGI rating except when they figure into impairment of luster. Abrasions in the fields may break luster resulting in a low (high number) CGI, probably between 6 and 7.

Suffice it to say that that it is almost impossible to find an early copper in CGI 1.0, as this condition is usually only retained on modern proof small cents. However, the next "landmark" reference point of CGI 2.0 defines a stage where the copper has retained its full *original* mint bloom (perhaps with some spotting) yet mellowed (lightly toned) simply from age. Such coppers are known as "blazers" because they resemble the color of fire, and they are very attractive especially from a slight distance to the eye. In my opinion the most desirable stage of full red is CGI 3.0, which is a short-lived state of actual cherry red color; this stage is rarely seen uniformly on an early copper but scattered about the coin and usually only on one side. Rather, the coin quickly progresses toward CGI 4.0, from which it can, depending on the environment, take on numerous different tones (even brown!) yet still be *fully* lustrous. The luster begins to break down as the CGI approaches 5. Here as well, many different colors are possible yet more likely to be mixed with tarnish due to overexposure to certain chemical elements. As we progress toward 6.0 and 7.0 the tarnish gets stronger still.

Most mint-state early coppers fall in the lower third or quarter of the CGI spectrum. As for full red (CGI 3.0 or higher) coppers, a hoard of half cents dated 1833 and 1835 was discovered in a Boston bank vault around 1935 (attributed to Elmer Sears), and many of these have high color ratings despite spotting. Caches of full red 1855 half cents and 1853 and 1855 large cents are known to have been discovered. The famous Randall Hoard of uncirculated large cents dated 1816-25, discovered in Virginia in 1867, contained many 1820s of varying shades including a few full red examples. No other date of large cent prior to 1850 is known to exist truly red in any quantity, certified or otherwise. Below is a tabulation by date (all varieties) of the number of full red early coppers slabbied by PCGS and NGC as of June 30 (regardless of "MS" grade).

HALF CENTS			LARGE CENTS		LARGE CENTS		
MS	PR		MS	PR	MS	PR	
1800	4		1793	1	1847	1	
1804	1		1796	1	1848	2	
1806	7		1801	1	1849	2	2
1828	14		1804	1	1850	51	
1829	1		1804RES	4	1851	56	
1831	--	5	1807	2	1852	43	1
1833	24	1	1811	1	1853	275	
1834	3	1	1816	1	1854	42	1
1835	40	3	1817	2	1855	228	1
1836	--	1	1818	4	1856	61	3
1840	--	2	1819	3	1857	5	1
1841	--	2	1820	18			
1842	--	1	1822	3			
1843	--	3	1830				
1844	--	1	1831				
1847	--	1	1837	1			
1848	--	1	1838	4			
1849	--	3	1839	3			
1850	1		1840	7			
1851	25		1841	1			1
1854	21		1842	2			1
1855	263	1	1844				1
1856	15	4	1845	3			
1857	23	1	1846	1			

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NEXT MEETING 8 OCTOBER AT SMALL CENTS 2 COIN SHOP

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for October will be anything from South America.

**Nashua Coin Club Welcomes
Tom Vancor as our newest
member**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi. I'm sorry we didn't get to have a meeting in October, but we will make up for it in November. The coin of the month will still be anything south of the Panama Canal. Once again it is a Holiday, so I asked Gary if we could have the meeting at Small Cents II, Gary said sure. Sooo....we will be having our Pizza party this month instead. Once again we are asking everyone to bring in a chair, also if you have anything you would like to see under the microscope, bring it in. At the November meeting we will see what films are available to us through the ANA, if anything looks appealing to us we will see about procuring them to view at later meetings. ELECTIONS will be held in January. Now is the time to consider helping the club by stepping forward and running for office. Offices to be elected are President, 3 Vice Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, and Director. If anyone is interested in serving, Please feel free to let any one of the current officers know, it's a great way to help the club grow. Don't be shy, were all here to help you, and have fun in the hobby we love so well.



OCTOBER QUIZ

Here is a second round of questions about South America.

1. Name two South American countries that use the US Dollar as their currency.
2. The Andes Condor is depicted on the coins of which country?
3. The capital of one South American country is the same as the coin denomination of another. Name them. BONUS: Name the denomination/capital.
4. What South American country uses Cents and Guilders (Gulden)?

ANSWERS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER NEXT MONTH!

SHOW CALENDAR

9-11 Nov - Bay State, Boston

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11 Nov - Auburn, MA

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18 NOV - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

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24 NOV - SMALL CENTS II AUCTION, HOLIDAY INN

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25 Nov - Chelmsford, MA

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30 Nov-2 Dec - Baltimore, MD

.

7-9 Dec - NY International

.

9 Dec - Auburn, MA

.

16 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

.

23 Dec - Chelmsford, MA



THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF COINS

by Ken Camilleis

There exists among mankind an inherent romance with coins, borne for millennia, and this feeling is historically well known in the United States since the early days of the U.S. Mint. Money has always been revered for its *purchase power*. Since ancient times, people have worked hard for their money. A single gold coin was a week's pay, and if it was lost or stolen, the individual was in a bad way. In a sense, we could say that the world was "bound by gold".

During a period of dire financial instability in the 1830s and 1840s (and probably for many years before and after), copper coins were not legal tender. That is, one could not simply exchange 10,000 large cents for twenty half eagles. Not that it was common practice to hoard large cents in such quantity, but there was a ceiling of usually between 10 and 25 cents that coppers could be exchanged for their equivalent in U.S. or Spanish silver. I believe this was standard practice for specie conversion at least through 1857, and perhaps longer. Andrew Jackson was very much against paper currency and bank credit and proclaimed, in so many words of the 1830s, "Gold Rules!" with an executive order known as the "Specie Circular".

When I was a child, I was taught to *respect* money. In our family, we could say it was "hard times" growing up in the 1950s and early 1960s, and my allowance started off at a dime, then 15 cents, and I eventually worked my way up to 50 cents. A penny was worth a nice juicy jawbreaker, and a Walking Liberty or Franklin half meant ten Hershey bars. I can even remember feeling a bit upset when the price of a donut was raised from 8 to 10 cents at the drug store where I hung out. And our brand new 7-room Colonial in Newton cost a mere \$26,000, and I believe our '56 Chevy cost little more than \$1000 – payable in notes redeemable in silver "to the bearer on demand".

In 1964, one could go to any bank or store and exchange ten pennies for a 90% silver dime, twenty nickels for two half dollars, and so on. Banks also distributed Morgan and Peace dollars, although they seldom circulated in commerce. There was no limit as to the number of pennies and nickels, which bore no precious metal (save for the 1942-45 war nickels), that could be converted to silver coin. For many years before 1933, any amount of copper was exchangeable for any amount of *gold*. In plain and simple terms, coins *were* money.

A coin is actually a "slice of time"; a cross-section of nostalgia captured in a rounded snapshot upon which one can gaze and identify with some moment in U.S. history or even personal history. Coins minted during the second quarter of the 19th century, besides the ethereal attraction of their designs, bring to mind the aforementioned "hard times" and the significance of the value of the gold and silver coins at this time. You may ask yourself if some great historical figure such as President Lincoln handled that shiny 1834 Classic \$5 you're marveling over.

Nowadays, the coins produced for everyday circulation carry little commercial value, and are not backed in any precious metal but rather are merely *tokens* for purchase of goods, and paper currency (since 1968) is no longer represented by specie. Most people would not bother to pick up a penny lying on the ground, and some would even throw their zinc cents away when they become damaged. There is nothing that one cent will buy today. Also, the designs on the currently circulating U.S. coinage, with the exception of the State quarters and Sacagawea dollars, are monotonous, ubiquitous, and rather uninspiring. Modern coins simply do not have that aura of mystically intrinsic value that gives them the respect and reverence that coins of prior generations possessed. And now that penny jawbreaker costs 25 cents and loses its flavor twice as fast ... and the \$26,000 house paid for in documents worth their weight in silver is now about a \$650,000 value paid for in material still backed by the full faith and trust of the United States Government but somehow lacking that "bearer on demand" valuable metal coin mystique.

Oh, how we can peer at our obsolete coins through the rusty, dusty and musty tubes of time and proclaim, "Those were the days!" *Whenever* "those days" may have been.

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NEXT MEETING 12 NOVEMBER AT SMALL CENTS 2 COIN SHOP

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for November will still be anything from South America. We've had 2 months now. It should be a good showing!

NASHUA NUMISMATIST

November 2001
Volume 5 Number 11
Whole Number 58

Minutes of the Meeting 12 November 2001

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by President Bruce Heimbach at Small Cents II due to the Veteran's Day Holiday (observed). Fifteen members and one guest were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Correspondence was limited to magazines the club receives. It was announced that the 2002 NENA medals can now be ordered.

Under new business, a motion to donate \$100 in the club's name to the Nashua Telegraph's Santa Fund was made and unanimously approved. Wooden nickels from the Deerfield Fair were provided by Bruce and Davis Heimbach, Tim Sampson, and Randy Bullis. Thanks to them for a nice souvenir.

The quizzes from September and October were presented and discussed. We did two of them this time because the October meeting was cancelled. The annual pizza party then followed, and Don Pickering won the attendance raffle of \$4.00

Following the eats, Gary Galbo made his Long Beach trip report. About 20% of the dealers did not show due to fear of flying. Prices were lower than previous shows. He got sick and would up in the hospital for most of the show. However, he was able to work up his auction bids from the sickbed

and won 20-30% more than he usually does. The Baltimore show is coming up at the end of the month and there Bowers will combine two auctions.

Don Pickering showed around his collection of Nashua Dog Tags which included the one the club received a few months ago. Gary showed several Broken Bank notes and National Banknotes in his upcoming auction which sparked a discussion about the various economic factors that created them. Charlie Dube showed an Empire State Building medal that was from the 50-60s. Randy Bullis mentioned that Canada is issuing a medal celebrating the 225th birthday of the U.S. Ken Camelleis showed two Reeded Edge Halves – he got the 1839 at NENA 98 and another one just recently. Gary passed around a 1795 Dollar.

Events happening soon are the Small Cents II auction on 24 November, the Third Sunday show on 18 November, and Club Elections in January. Nominations will open next month. Bob Fritsch declared that he will run for Secretary/Treasurer which was recombined following the resignation of Bart Bartanowicz. Members were encouraged to take an office.

Coin of the Month(s) was anything from South America. Bob Fritsch passed around a small collection of South American coins he got out of a junk box. Tom Vancor won 14 coins. Next month's COTM is the 12 countries of the Euro.

Alan Brouillard related a story about a possible brush with counterfeit currency. He had two \$100 bills rejected by a merchant so returned to the back where he got them for an explanation. The notes were perfectly good but were from the 50s and did not react with the counterfeit detection pens in widespread use today. Ken Young told about passing an opportunity to get a \$300 bill, then told a story about two travelers who could not cash their American Express Travelers Checks in Watertown, NY, because "it was Saturday and they couldn't get the current exchange rate." Bob Fritsch said that he occasionally asks merchants, "Do you take Federal Reserve Notes?"

Bob then put on his hat as ANA District Delegate for New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He listed the many benefits of ANA membership and that ANA is a club worthy of every numismatist's support. He passed out brochures and membership applications. President Heimbach announced that he has the ANA's video list which he will circulate next month so we can borrow some for our meetings.

The meeting was closed at 9:02PM. The next meeting is 10 December.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Fritsch
Secretary

NOVEMBER QUIZ

SHOW CALENDAR

7-9 Dec - NY International

9 Dec - Auburn, MA

16 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY
INN

23 Dec - Chelmsford, MA

This quiz has only one question about the Euro with 12 (or 24) answers.

What national denominations is the Euro replacing on 1 January 2002? BONUS: Name the fractionals of each country.

SEPTEMBER ANSWERS

1. Simon Bolivar (Bolivia). 2. Potosi. Bonus: Bolivia. Extra Bonus: Peru (Bolivia was originally known as Alto (Upper) Peru and broke off from Peru in 1825. 3. Jose de San Martin. 4. Bernardo O'Higgins.

OCTOBER ANSWERS

1. Argentina and Ecuador. 2. Chile. 3. Bolivia and Ecuador (BONUS: Sucre). 4. Surinam (Dutch Guiana).

Message From The Prez

Well, now that November is behind us, the pizza party at Gary's Small Cents II was a great success. Maybe next time we might try to have a calzone or two also. Thanks again Gary for the use of your shop.

I hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving. I see that Santa has been checking his list to see who has been naughty and nice. As for myself, I have put a request in for a few REASONABLE items.

At the December meeting we will be viewing the tape that Gary gave us at the November meeting. I will also be looking for some input for future films. Just a friendly reminder elections will be held at the January meeting. Hope to see all of you at our next meeting. Be careful shopping out there.

The Euro is Coming! The Euro is Coming!

By Bob Fritsch

As we see 2001 draw to a close, we also note the passing of the national currencies of twelve European nations. On 1 January, 2002, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain will begin distributing new Euro coins and banknotes and withdrawing their national currencies, some of which have been in use for centuries. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the 12 Member States. So a French citizen will be able to buy a hot dog in Berlin using a Euro coin carrying the imprint of the King of Spain. The common European face of the coins represents a map of the European Union against a background of transverse lines to which are attached the stars of the European flag.



There will be eight Euro Coins in denominations ranging from 1 Cent to 2 Euro (note that the plural of Euro is Euro). The obverse of each coin will have a common design for all countries, which were agreed upon at the European Council meeting in Amsterdam in June 1997. The common European face was designed by



Luc Luycx, a 39-year-old computer scientist at the Belgian Royal Mint. He won ECU 24, 000 for his prize-winning series of design. [The ECU was an old denomination for a European common currency that didn't fly. It stood for European Currency Units.] The 1, 2 and 5 cent coins emphasize Europe's place in the world while the 10, 20 and 50 represent the Union as a gathering of nations. The 1 and 2 Euro coins depict Europe without frontiers. The reverse will have national themes of the issuing country. See the chart accompanying this article for specific national designs. That will make a total of 96 coins for the series.

As can be seen by the chart, some countries have used the same design for all coins (Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands). Others have used three groups of coins (you could say they are grouped by color or obverse design) with a common design for each group (France, Germany, Luxemburg, Portugal, Spain). Finland belongs here but has used a common design for all fractionals and a different design for each Euro coin. The remainder have done a common theme for each group but different design for each coin (Austria, Greece, Italy). The latter are my favorites.

The Banknotes come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euro in varying sizes and colors. The obverse has a theme of Windows and Doors while the reverse theme is Bridges. Extreme care was taken so the designs were generic and could not be attributed to any specific building or bridge. This was to keep any nationalism out of the Euro program ("That's MY bridge on

this note and you don't have one!"). There are extensive security features on each banknote.

The symbol for the Euro is a double-barred Greek "E". It looks like a "C" with two lines through it. Proportions are specific, and there is a neat animated .gif that shows how to draw the thing. The Euro symbol accompanies this article.

In just a few short weeks a massive effort to distribute the Euro coins and notes into circulation PLUS withdraw all national coins and notes from circulation will begin. The timetable allows only two months, until 28 February, to complete the process. In preparation for this momentous event, the mints of each country have been producing Euro-based coins since 1999, and have been stockpiling them under heavy security. Some countries, like Germany and France, are already starting Euro distribution to banks. People can exchange their national coins and currency for some time but nobody knows when that will end. The point is that after 28 February, the Euro will be the only legal tender in these

twelve countries.

All those coins that have been produced since 1999 will be available in sets after the first of the year. I know of one company that is charging a reasonable \$14.95 for each country's 2002 set, or \$164.95 for the year. Figuring the same price for each year, that is a whopping \$659.80 just to catch up!

And what of the coins that are being pulled from circulation? Most of these coinages date from the end of WWII, and have been around for 50 years or more. There are a lot of very collectable coins out there and they will be gone in the wink of an eye. Germany plans to shred all its old coins and make washers out of them. Netherlands will mulch their banknotes to make cattle feed. So a national heritage will disappear enterprising coin companies have



The scope and complexity of the world. As has been proven so many original planning. There will be many One major problem is that of vending only take Euros? Bigger companies can bear the cost of converting their machines, but smaller operators just may founder in the process. And that is only one of millions of enterprises that will be affected by this change. No matter what happens, it certainly will be interesting.

from daily life in all these countries. I can only hope that some contracted to buy some tonnage for scrap before it disappears forever.

Euro conversion is unprecedented in the monetary history of times with complicated mergers, the transition is never as easy as the problems, some severe, to be solved and not very much time to do it. machines. When is the best time to stop accepting national coins and

machines. When is the best time to stop accepting national coins and



STRAWBERRY FIELDS

by Ken Camilleis

"Let me take you down, 'cause I'm going to ..."

In my research endeavors I happened upon the classic Americana – a red farmhouse built in 1764 with acres and acres of what stood a chance of being "virgin" land. That is, never having been metal-detected. According to my research, from 1826 through 1845 there was a "camp meeting" held here every summer and attended by thousands. A great place to lose – and find – old coins. The property owners were most accommodating and quite interested in my historical shpiel. We kidded around and I told them they could have half the take.

I turned on my DFX and was "ready to roll". And soon I realized that, yes, this was the place! Where those huge crowds did some "rolling" of their own more than 150 years ago. After finding several large cents and tired pieces of Spanish silver, I unearthed an 1834 Capped Bust dime with Mint State details! All this money was lost in the throes of spiritual ecstasy.

When I got home I observed that one of the large cents was very badly corroded. Beneath a heavy layer of copper sulfate, I could barely make out some letters of "ONE CENT" but noticed something particularly unusual – the letters were smaller and "bunched up" – that meant it had to be a very early date! I rubbed off in warm soapy water as much of the grime as I could and soon my eyes beheld a beautiful sight – that of numerous scattered small berries and a single-bow wreath with thin leaves. That meant I had me a Wreath Cent – which was only coined in the vaunted debut year of 1793! Now my pulse began to rise as I frantically used another large cent to try to scrape the heavily caked verdigris off the obverse. No can do. But I applied the "aluminum foil test", as I knew I was looking for a right-facing portrait of Liberty with unkempt hair and the digits "1", "7", "9", "3". The date did not come out on the foil image but the portrait did. I went down to the basement and grabbed some fine sandpaper and started to carefully whittle down a bit of the ugly green stuff. The date and legend wouldn't budge, but just above where the date would be, and below the truncation of the neck, I spotted something that sent me reeling!

What I expected to see was the "familiar" sprig of three olive leaves, but instead what I saw were what appeared to be tiny buds or much smaller leaves. NO!! I must be dreaming this! This is a *Strawberry Leaf* cent, one of *four* known to exist!! And mine is the lucky fifth! Not the five-millionth, not even the five-thousandth ... the FIFTH! I began to weep ... tears of joy ... I can probably retire now as this must be worth high into six figures even in its "Poor" condition.

I had visions of seeing my Strawberry Leaf go up in an upcoming Bowers & Merena auction with a glossy catalog and a 10-page article dedicated to this particular coin (just like they've done with the 1804 silver dollar and a few other celebrated "classic rarities"). I showed the coin to my metal-detecting cronies and they gasped in awe. I thought about how members of the Early American Coppers club would react. And then – and THEN ...

... and then I woke up. So much for paying off the mortgage on my house *and* sending Christie and Tracy to college.

* * * * *

Just as the Beatles sang, "Nothing is real, nothing to get hung about". Sorry, readers, for the letdown. But I have read true stories of absolutely stupendous coin finds with metal detectors, and in relatively recent times. In 1990 a lady found the eighth known example of a 1652 New England sixpence, and about two years ago a young man found what has been authenticated as the *only* known specimen of a variety of 1849 California 1-dollar gold. And in 1997 one of my buddies really did find a Willow Tree Shilling of which about forty are known! The rarest coin (actually a token) I found, of about 5,000 mintage, was an 1820 North West Company token, way back in 1980. At the time I was so green with inexperience I just assumed it was a piece of old junk and tossed it into a bucket with zillions of other relics I'd dug up. When we moved, this got lost for good, but I didn't care because I didn't think it had any value. How wrong I was.

So maybe someone will someday discover their field of dreams – their Strawberry Field.

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Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

NEXT MEETING 10 DECEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for December will still be anything from Europe in celebration of the Euro entry January 1st.

NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting
10 December 2001

The meeting was opened at 7:09PM by Vice President Randy Bullis with 12 members and no guests present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence included the usual magazines and flyers, plus an announcement by ANA of their Diploma Program. The club buys the materials then lets the members use them. The candidate then pays only for the final exam. While the treasury can support this, the Treasurer thinks that other programs should support this most beneficial program. A question was raised about the longevity of the materials and ANA will be asked about this.

The monthly quiz was then reviewed with only one question: What currencies and minors are being replaced by the Euro? There were 23 answers. The Coin of the Month was the monies being replaced by the Euro. Bob Fritsch was fresh from a quick trip to Germany and came back with a set of German Euro coins (which were illegal to own at the time) and stories about the money soon to disappear from daily commerce. Most modern European currencies have been in existence since soon after WWII, and that 50-year legacy has provided a rich hunting ground for the circulation collector. In just a few short weeks they will start a one-way trip to oblivion. Examples of current German and Austrian coins and bank

notes were passed around. The higher denomination German bank notes were highlighted as wonderful examples of technology. They had not only beautiful artwork, but also several anti-counterfeiting devices including a security thread, color shifting ink which included a "magic window" effect, watermarks, and raised ink codes for the blind. The Euro is to go into circulation on 1 January in 12 countries of the European Union. There are 8 coins in the set that will have a common reverse and a country-specific obverse. The set includes two Bi-Metallic coins denominated 1 and 2 Euros. Bob distributed flyers about the Euro coins and currency that he had gotten at the Frankfurt Airport. He also gave away Elongated German 2 and 5 Pfennig coins he had made at the Hofbraeuhaus in Munich. Next month's Coin of the Month is the Kentucky Quarter, with a story.

At the break, Tim Walant won the \$3.00 Attendance Raffle. Bob Fritsch won the COTM raffle of 7 coins.

Tim Walant then gave his YN Presentation, showing a French 10 Centime, a Canadian Confederation Centennial Cent, and a Philippine 10 Sentimo coin. Charlie Dube showed a Zodiac Crab pendant, a Fort Sumter American Heritage Medal probably from the 1960s, a USS Massachusetts/USS Lionfish souvenir, and two blank flans. Ken Camilleis had obtained many rolls

of Uncirculated Cents from various banks around Boston many years ago. The newest was 1968. They were brought in by a woman whose husband was probably a pack-rat. Ken asked the members to take from the various piles he had created from those rolls. He also passed around an 1820 and an 1850 Large Cent, and an 1835 Half Cent.

Charlie Dube auctioned off his wooden nickel collection for \$100 plus the items from his Show & Tell.

The meeting was closed at 9:01PM. The next meeting is 14 January.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Fritsch Secretary

Editor's Note

I would like to thank Bob Fritsch for his show and tell on the Euro coins. Awesome collection! Wonderful descriptions and thought provoking questions flowed around the room that evening. I learned an incredible lot about the Euro and the mintage process to follow.

If it wasn't for Bob's deep devotion to numismatics (and the thirst for a good German beer <tease>) we would never have seen such a nice collection.

Thank you.

SHOW CALENDAR

10-13 Jan - FUN, Orlando, FL

18-20 Jan - NY International, NY, NY

20 JAN - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

27 Jan - Chelmsford, MA

17 FEB - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

21-24 Feb - Long Beach, CA

24 Feb - Chelmsford, MA

1-3 Mar - CPMX, Rosemont, IL

7-9 Mar - ANA, Jacksonville, FL

10 Mar - Willimantic, CT

15-17 Mar - Bay State, Boston

16 MAR - NENA @ BAY STATE

17 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

22-24 Mar - Baltimore, MD

24 Mar - Chelmsford, MA

DECEMBER QUIZ

What do you know about Kentucky?

1. What kind of horse is pictured on the Kentucky 50 States Quarter?
2. The Daniel Boone Half Dollar was minted for how many years?
3. The "Starry Pyramid" Halfpence Token is also called the "Kentucky Cent." Why?
4. Was the Myddleton Token of 1796 ever intended to circulate in Kentucky, even though it featured the British Settlement of that state?

NOVEMBER ANSWERS

Austria	Schilling	Groschen
Belgium	Franc	Centime
Finland	Markka	Penni
France	Franc	Centime
Germany	Mark	Pfennig
Greece	Drachma	Lepton
Ireland	Punt (Pound)	Penny
Italy	Lira	--
Luxembourg	Franc	Centime
Netherlands	Gulden (Guilder)	Cent
Portugal	Escudo	Centavo
Spain	Peseta	Centimo

Attention All Members

That time is upon us and it is the start of the new year, 2002. Please remember to bring your coin of the month (Kentucky quarter), and your monthly meeting raffle quarter, and your membership dues of \$6.00 per person. Those that cannot attend, please mail your dues ASAP to the address on the envelope. That way, you'll never miss one great issue of the Nashua Numismatist.

Also, please take note. Due to the number of presentations at December's meeting, we forgot to nominate candidates for officers for the upcoming year. Be prepared to come forth and present your nominations during the beginning of January's meeting and at the end, to cast your vote for this year's officers. Please don't be shy to nominate yourself. You are your best representative and should make us all aware of your interest. We would all love to see new people standing up and running for office this year.

EURO COIN DESIGNS

COUNTRY	1 CENT	2 CENT	5 CENT	10 CENT	20 CENT	50 CENT	1 EURO	2 EURO
Diameter	16.25mm	18.75mm	21.25mm	19.75mm	22.25mm	24.25mm	23.25mm	25.75mm
Weight	2.3g	3.0g	3.9g	4.1g	5.7g	7.8g	7.5g	8.5g
Composition	Cu plated steel	Cu plated steel	Cu plated steel	Nordic Gold	Nordic Gold	Nordic Gold	NiBS-Ni-NiBS/ CuNi	CuNi/ NiBS-Ni-NiBS
Color	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Outer Yellow Inner White	Outer White Inner Yellow
Edge	Smooth	Grooved	Smooth	Shaped w scallop	Plain (coin is flower shaped)	Shaped w scallop	Interrupted Reeding	Fine Reeding w Letters
Austria	Gentian Flower	Edelweiss Flower	Alpine Primrose	St Stephen's Cath/Vienna	Belvedere / Vienna	Vienna Secession Bldg	Mozart	Bertha von Suttner
Belgium	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II	Albert II
Finland	Heraldic Lion	Heraldic Lion	Heraldic Lion	Heraldic Lion	Heraldic Lion	Heraldic Lion	Swans in Flight	Arctic flower
France	Marianne	Marianne	Marianne	The Sower	The Sower	The Sower	Stylized Tree	Stylized Tree
Germany	Oak Twig	Oak Twig	Oak Twig	Brandenburg Gate	Brandenburg Gate	Brandenburg Gate	German Eagle	German Eagle
Greece	Athenian Triteme	Sailing Ship	Sea-Going Tanker	Rigas-Fereos (Veletimlis)	Ioannis Capodistrias	Eleftherios Venizelos	Athens Owl	Zeus (Bull) Abducting Europa
Ireland	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire	Harp/Eire
Italy	Castel del Monte	Mole Antonelliana	Flavian Amphitheatre (Coliseum)	Botticelli's "Venus" (head only)	Umberto Boccioni sculpture	Marcus Aurelius on Horseback	Leonardo's Human Body	Dante Alighieri
Luxembourg	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri	Grand Duke Henri
Netherlands	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix	Beatrix
Portugal	Royal Seal from 1134AD	Royal Seal from 1134AD	Royal Seal from 1134AD	Royal seal from 1142AD	Royal seal from 1142AD	Royal seal from 1142AD	European star	European star
Spain	Santiago de Compostela Cathedral	Santiago de Compostela Cathedral	Santiago de Compostela Cathedral	Miguel de Cervantes	Miguel de Cervantes	Miguel de Cervantes	Juan Carlos	Juan Carlos

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE HALF DOLLAR

by Ken Camilleis

In 1792, when the United States Mint opened at Philadelphia, our young country was heavily dependent on foreign currency and coinage (chiefly British and from countries under Spanish rule). The *dollar* that would become the U.S. currency unit had evolved from the Spanish Milled Dollar, commonly known as the "Piece of Eight". Each *real* (or "bit") was valued at 12.5 cents, and silver coins of various denominations circulated during Colonial times. But there soon came a time when the U.S. would have a coinage all its own, which would coexist with the Spanish dollar and its fractions as legal tender of the United States. The four-real coin would be equalled in value by ... the U.S. half dollar.

The half dollar was a pivotal coin throughout most of its history, until recent times. In the first half of the 19th century, the half was transacted in bulk for land purchases and foreign trade. Although they were not used on a large scale in everyday commercial transactions (as were large cents, half dimes, dimes and Spanish silver), halves were minted in what was at the time considered enormous production, relative to other silver denominations. Many halves were shipped overseas and later melted. After the Civil War, to the best of my knowledge, the half dollar was a general circulation coin, and the half held this status for a long time.

Until about 25 years ago, the half was a freely circulating coin, quite useful in commerce. But with the advent of the assassination of President Kennedy coupled with the rising costs of mining silver which culminated in the disappearance of 90% silver coins after 1964, the half seems to have vanished from general circulation. And this despite the fact that halves coined after 1970 contain no silver. Here in the northeast region of the country, there are very few industries (other than banks) that have a demand for the half. In fact, halves will not fit most vending machines today.

How "collectible" is the half dollar? It is noteworthy that only during two years in the nation's history, 1807 and 1839, has more than one half dollar design been employed in the same year or bearing the same date. The Mint coined its first halves in 1794, of the "Flowing Hair" design. In 1796 the Draped Bust with a "Small Eagle" reverse was used, and for two years this design was coined in very limited quantity. After a 3-year lapse in production, the half dollar reappeared in 1801 with the Heraldic Eagle reverse, which was coined into 1807.

Midway through 1807 the popular Capped Bust half was introduced by John Reich, and halves were coined without interruption (except for a fire at the Mint in 1816) and with the design unchanged through 1836. These coins and their 1794-1807 predecessors were made with a lettered edge that reads "FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR". There is a devoted group of researchers known as the *John Reich Collectors Society*, who study literally hundreds of varieties (within a date) of Bust halves, which are attributed to the late specialist Al Overton. Many of these so-called "Bust Half Nuts" are constantly on the lookout for a new, rare or as-yet unattributed variety of a particular date.

Late in 1836 the Capped Bust design was modified to a traditional reeded edge and the denomination was spelled out "50 CENTS" (changed to "HALF DOL." in 1838). This change was brought about by a change in coining process and equipment from a hand-powered screw press to a new steam-driven press. The Bust half was retired in 1839 when the design was changed to Liberty Seated.

Several variations of the design are known in the early Seated halves (1839-42), from both the Philadelphia and the New Orleans Mint (and, amazingly, just a few years ago the *only known* 1842 Philly specimen with Small Letters was discovered!). Other modifications are known, such as the arrows in 1853 to denote a slight weight reduction, and placement of the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" in 1866. The last year of the Seated half was 1891. The years 1892-1915 gave us a Liberty half designed by Charles Barber and named after him. The Walking Liberty style, designed by Adolph Weinman, was produced from 1916-47. The Franklin ("Liberty Bell") half of 1948-63 was designed by John R. Sinnock, and immediately upon Kennedy's assassination the half bearing Kennedy's portrait was authorized. In 1964 only, Kennedy halves are 90% silver, and 40% silver from 1965-70, with the 1970 limited to mint (D) and proof (S) sets. From 1971 to the present, all halves are of cupronickel composition and there have been no major changes except for the Bicentennial coins issued during 1975-76 bearing the date "1776-1976". There are no halves dated 1975, and those dated 1987 were a limited issue like 1970. Silver proofs (90%) were introduced in the San Francisco Mint in 1992.

Over the last 20 years or so, half dollar production has dropped precipitously, supporting the contention that there is little commercial demand for the half. But, as you see, the half has quite a history behind it.

I'm hoping someday that there will be a circulating 50-cent coin and that the zinc penny can finally, mercifully, rest in peace.

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NEXT MEETING 14 JANUARY AT THE LIBRARY

COIN OF THE MONTH

COTM for January will be the Kentucky quarter.